Supreme Court tells Danding: Don't bug us again

STORY ON PAGE A2

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Chips on shoulders? Yes, literally, soon

NAYKUUU! BAKA YAN NA NGA YUNG "MARK OF THE BEAST"

WASHINGTON—Soon people will literally have chips on their shoulders.

A Florida technology company is poised to ask the government permission to market a first-ever computer

CHIPS/A5

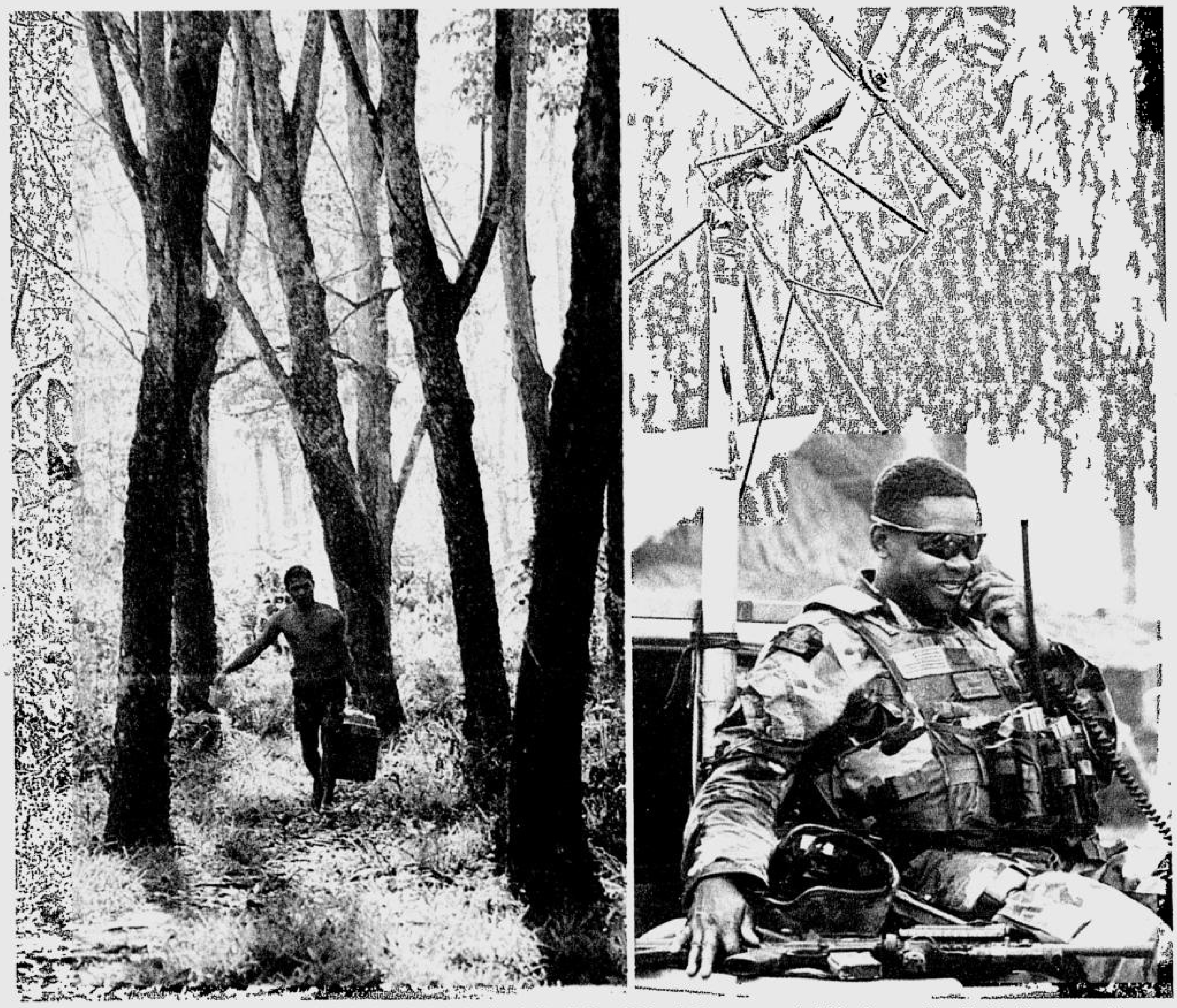
Erap: Big business, Sin ganged up on me

By Juliet L. Javellana and Volt Contreras

A DAY after he dismissed his lawyers, former President Joseph Estrada accused big businessmen, including the owners of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, and Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal of conspiring against him.

ERAP: BIG/A16

'A political masterstroke'



THE LONELINESS of the Scout Ranger Camp in Cabunbata, Isabela, Basilan, is dispelled by a US Special Forces trooper in full battle gear of First World caliber happy talking on his sat phone. His Filipino counterpart fetches water from a spring in the woods.

VAL HANDUMON

Tactic buys time to get sympathy

"A POLITICAL masterstroke."

"A deliberate and calculated move to cause further delays in the trial."

"It's out to pressure the Sandiganbayan and the Macapagal administration to allow him to go to the US."

"He's bringing the case from the court to the bar of public opinion."

"It's a trap."

"It's meant to counter unfavorable public opinion after his admission that he signed as Jose Velarde."

"He wants to appeal to the emotions of the people."

In sum, these were the commonly held reactions of senators, congressmen and militant groups after former President Joseph Estrada yesterday terminated the services of his nine defense lawyers.

"It would be folly for the government to treat it merely as a ploy to delay the cases," Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said.

"It is a move that if Estrada sustains to the very end of his trial could very well mean his legal conviction by the Sandiganbayan but, to his followers, a manifestation of his continuing oppression by the government," Pimentel said.

"A political masterstroke that President Macapagal-Arroyo has to counter masterfully," Pimentel said.

"Otherwise, not only cases against Estrada will be put to risk but also the entire machinery of government at an even

APOLITICAL/A16

Opus Dei founder one step nearer sainthood

By Armand Nocum

THE FOUNDER of a controversial religious group, Blessed Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer, is a step nearer to sainthood.

The Spanish priest's canonization on Oct. 6, 2002 at St. Peter's Square in Rome may finally silence critics of the Opus Dei, the organization Blessed Escriva founded in 1928.

Opus Dei is made up of lay members and priests. The Opus Dei laity continue to work in the world but remain under the strict spiritual direction of the organization.

Escriva founded the Opus Dei

OPUS/A6

'RP is no Vietnam War-like slippery slope'

WASHINGTON—The top US military commander in the Pacific denied Wednesday that the anti-terrorism effort in the Philippines was a Vietnam War-like "slippery slope" that could enmesh American forces in a long-term conflict.

Adm. Dennis Blair, commander in chief of US forces in the Asia-Pacific, praised the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo for its security cooperation with Washington, but warned that the war against the Abu Sayyaf would "not be won by military operations alone."

"Improvements in law enforcement, intelligence, economics, business, information, media, academia, community leadership and religion will have enduring and important roles in the battle," he said.

Testifying before the US House of Representatives' international relations committee, Blair said US assistance to Philippine troops fighting the Abu Sayyaf was being run within strict bounds and would not spill over to target the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"Our program in the Philippines is of an entirely different character" than the US role in Vietnam, said Blair, who is retiring soon.

But the fact that the operation has "pretty tight" bounds and that the Philippine government is committed to economic development in Mindanao "make me think this is not a slippery slope that we're starting down," he said.

"The time line we have is months, not years," he added.

Blair also asked the US Congress for 5,000 more counter-terrorism experts and

RP/A6

PCGG to appeal 'really strange' court ruling

By Donna S. Cueto

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government yesterday announced it would appeal before the Supreme Court the Sandiganbayan's "really strange" resolution reversing its own forfeiture ruling on the $660-million Marcos Swiss escrow funds.

PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac said government lawyers were to file the petition for certiorari before the high court yesterday, on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the commission.

In the petition, the PCGG questions the Sandiganbayan's Jan. 31 resolution written by suspended Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena, and asks the tribunal to immediately reinstate the anti-graft court's September 2000 decision forfeiting the funds in favor of the government.

"Today, we are filing before the Supreme Court a 100-page petition to reverse this really strange decision," Yorac said at the PCGG anniversary celebration. "And I think that maybe Mr. Justice Garchitorena will be given more time to cogitate in order to come up with fair and legal decisions."

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza said Ilocos Sur Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr.,

PCGG/A5

Erap rejects four lawyers appointed by court

By Volt Contreras and Michael Lim Ubac

THE STAR may be sulking but the show will go on.

Jailed former President Joseph Estrada doesn't even want to talk to the four lawyers from the Public Attorneys Office (PAO) offered to him after he dismissed all his nine lawyers.

A former private counsel of Estrada said the former President would definitely reject the services of any court-appointed lawyer, "whether from PAO, *ampaw* or *siopao*."

"And we (the original defense panel) will not turn over any evidence to the new lawyers un-

ERAP REJECTS/A16

5 fratmen get life for Venturina slay

One topped board exams for civil engineers

By Agnes E. Donato

WARREN Zingapan, 29, topped the board exams for civil engineers with a grade of 95.1 in 1996, but he's not going anywhere. Chances are he'll be spending the best years of his life not in some big construction company but in jail.

With "a heavy heart," a Quezon City judge yesterday sentenced Zingapan and four of his Scintilla Juris fraternity brothers to life imprisonment for the killing of Sigma Rho's Dennis Venturina on the University of the Philippines Diliman campus in 1994.

"Wow," Zingapan mumbled, his head shaking when Judge Jose Mendoza of the QC Regional Trial Court Branch 219 handed down the verdict.

Also convicted of murder were Robert Michael Alvir, 28; Danilo Feliciano Jr., 26; Christopher Soliva, 26; and Julius Victor Medalla, 31.

5FRATMEN/A6

DENNIS VENTURINA: "Not the only victim."

Estrada, Sandigan: A test of wills

By Raul Palabrica

ANALYSIS

IN WHAT may be considered the first eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation between the Sandiganbayan and former President Joseph Estrada, the question that confronts both sides is: Who is going to blink first?

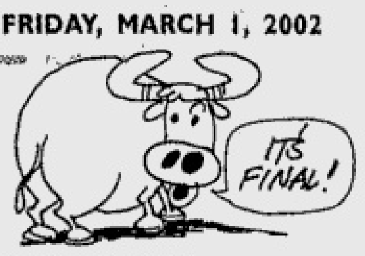
The anti-graft court that is determined to comply with the instructions of the highest tribunal to render speedy justice to the complainants and the accused—or Estrada who has declared he has lost all hope of getting justice from the courts?

By ordering his lawyers to withdraw from the cases filed against him, Estrada has engaged the Sandiganbayan and the judiciary, in general, in a test of wills.

The politician in Estrada wants to find out this early whether the three

ESTRADA/A16

Second FRONT PAGE



RULING ON COCO LEVY FUND

SC to Danding: Don't bug us again

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE SUPREME Court yesterday upheld its decision declaring the controversial coconut levy funds as "prima facie" (apparently) public funds.

In a resolution by the full court, the SC denied with finality the motions filed by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. and Ballares et al. seeking to grant Cojuangco voting rights over his supposed assets at the United Coconut Planters Bank.

"Wherefore, the motions for reconsideration are denied for lack of merit. This denial is final," said the seven-page resolution signed by SC clerk of court Luzviminda D. Puno.

The resolution ordered Cojuangco, or any affected party in the controversial coconut levy case, to stop seeking remedy from the SC. "Indeed this litigation must come to a definite end now," the court said.

The SC said the motion filed by Cojuangco "had not presented any compelling, convincing or substantial arguments for us to modify or change, much less reverse, our decision, which we reached after several months of careful deliberation and purposeful discussion in which all the relevant arguments presented have been fully and completely taken up."

The SC reminded Cojuangco that it could not rule on the primordial issue of whether the UCPB shares "have legitimately become their private property."

"This determination can properly be done by the Sandiganbayan in the main case. It must be emphasized that the (SC) did not make a final statement that these shares are indeed public and belong to the government. To do so would have been to rule on the main case," the SC said.

The high court emphasized that its Dec. 14, 2001 ruling had merely determined the "prima facie" nature of the funds used to purchase the sequestered shares "only for the purpose of enabling us to rule on the issue of who has the right to vote the shares in the meantime. That should be clear now."

In its Dec. 14 ruling, the high court upheld the right of the government, through the Presidential Commission on Good Government to exercise its right to vote the sequestered shares of the UCPB.

With a vote of 10-5, the full court declared the sequestered UCPB shares were "indisputably acquired with coconut levy funds which are public in character."

The UCPB is 94.29-percent sequestered and the remaining shares are owned by the First United Bank. This prompted Cojuangco to file a motion for reconsideration on Jan. 16, 2002.

He insisted his shares "were acquired as compensation for the transfer of his rights over the (sequestered UCPB) shares as well as for performing management services, which entitled him to receive one share for every nine shares purchased by the buyers."

Cojuangco argued in his motion that the UCPB shares were indeed acquired with coco levy funds but only with respect to the shares of stock, which were registered in the names of the "one million coconut farmers" from the so-called Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) companies.

"(But) the UCPB shares of respondent Cojuangco were paid to him in consideration of his transfer to the Philippine Coconut Authority of the First United Bank shares he acquired from the family of Don Jose Cojuangco Sr. and for management services rendered to the bank," he said.

In its ruling yesterday, the SC reminded Cojuangco the question of whether the shares he claims as his own "are the result of private enterprise is a factual matter that should be taken up in the final decision in the main case pending in the Sandiganbayan."

In a related development, Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said yesterday the interim power-sharing agreement between the government and Cojuangco in San Miguel Corp. would insulate the food and beverage company from legal actions on the unresolved ownership of the coconut levy shares.

Roxas said the deal was not tilted in favor of Cojuangco. "At best, this is a standoff between Cojuangco and the government."

Roxas chairs the government committee that drafted the interim agreement with Cojuangco.

He said that yesterday's SMC stockholders meeting, where Kirin Brewery Ltd.'s $540 million buy-in into SMC was up for approval, might have been marred by a temporary restraining order if the government and Cojuangco did not reach an interim agreement.

"If we (the government) did not do this, the shareholders meeting would have been tumultuous and Kirin would have said goodbye to its SMC investment," said Roxas, who warned this eventuality would have a dire impact not only on SMC but also on the country's bid to attract investors.

Roxas denied the interim agreement was a compromise with Cojuangco since all of the pending cases involving the coconut levy shares in SMC and the United Coconut Planters Bank would continue.

Roxas said the agreement merely shifted the battle between Cojuangco and government on the coconut levy shares in SMC from the corporate boardroom to the courts where the battle should be fought.

"The government did not give up its claim and continues to work through the court system. It is to their benefit that SMC remains viable," Roxas said.

5,000 march on Clark to protest Balikatan

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—More than 5,000 farmers and workers from Central and Northern Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Bicol and Metro Manila converged here yesterday for the 16-kilometer march to the former Clark Air Base dubbed the "Balikatan ng Mamamayan Laban sa Balikatan 02-1."

The march, in which 15 organizations led by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and the Central Luzon Alliance for Sovereign Philippines are participating, is to culminate in a vigil seeking an end to the RP-US military exercises in Basilan and Zamboanga City.

The protesters are also calling for the pullout of US soldiers still in Central Luzon.

A statement by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas said that while the RP-US "Balance Piston" exercises ended last Feb. 15, US troops were still in Central Luzon and participating in the regular combat operations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Bayan-Central Luzon chair Roman Polintan said the march was expected to draw at least 10,000 people, including workers from this city's brewery and soft drink companies and students from various universities. ***Reports from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Gerald G. Lacuarta in Manila***

MILF steps up attacks; wounds 2

SOME 50 Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas have attacked military units in Maguindanao, leaving two civilians wounded, Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said yesterday.

According to Adan, the guerrillas ambushed an Army patrol near the town of Mamasapano on Wednesday morning, while about 80 other MILF gunmen attacked the Army unit's battalion headquarters nearby some 80 minutes later.

Adan also told reporters that a government militiaman with the military unit and his 9-year-old daughter were wounded in the second attack.

He said the guerrillas torched a government bulldozer at an irrigation project near the town of Shariff Aguak, also in Maguindanao, on Monday. *AFP*

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GORDON IN CANCUN
"Come on over and we'll take care of you," Tourism Secretary Richard J. Gordon appears to be telling, from left, Claude Aponte Rojas, consultant for Mexico, UN Division of Economic Public Administration, and Valery Golubev, minister of tourism of St. Petersburg, Russia, during a break in the UN International Colloquium on Tourism Industry in Decentralized Economies held Feb. 20-22 in Cancun, Mexico. Gordon, guest speaker at the conference, spoke on local tourism successes through government and community participation as well as on the Subic and Olongapo experience with volunteerism.

Press secretary cites 'burnout' for quitting

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

PLEADING "burnout," Press Secretary Noel Cabrera said yesterday he has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to give him another assignment.

The press spokesperson, who was known to keep a low profile, revealed he has had enough of working at the Presidential Palace.

Cabrera is reportedly being considered for the chairmanship of a government corporation.

"I have expressed my desire to the President to serve in another capacity. She was very understanding and open to the idea, but there are no firm details yet," Cabrera told reporters yesterday.

"I feel a burnout fast approaching, if it has not set in yet," he joked.

He said the daily pressures of his job and the heavy administrative work have taken their toll on him.

"It's not a matter of being happy or not. It's the feeling of a burnout and it's going to affect (my) performance. It's not fair to the agency and to the President," he said.

Asked if he could not take Palace intrigues anymore, Cabrera laughed. "No, it's really like that. It's all part (of the job)."

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao was quick to deny speculations he will take over Cabrera's post.

"I'm happy where I am, even if I have to deal with smart alecks like you every day," he told reporters at his regular press briefing.

"Let's just wait for the President's instructions. She has not talked to me about it, so I cannot comment further," he said.

Cabrera was earlier thought to be warming the press secretary seat for Dante Ang, Ms Macapagal's personal publicist. Cabrera was press undersecretary in the Ramos and Estrada administrations.

He was promoted press secretary by Ms Macapagal shortly after she assumed office in January last year.

Cabrera is the third Cabinet member to resign so far, after Presidential Management Staff head Vicky Garchitorena and presidential adviser Paul Dominguez.

Garchitorena and Dominguez, however, continue to serve the administration in less visible capacities.

Quirino death anniversary marked today

FAMILY, friends and admirers will mark today the 46th death anniversary of President Elpidio Quirino with a Mass at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park and the laying of a wreath at his tomb at the Makati South Cemetery.

Quirino was Vice President when President Manuel A. Roxas died on April 17, 1948. The new President focused his attention on two major goals—the restoration of the people's faith in the government and total economic mobilization of the country. He granted amnesty to those who fought the government to bring them back to the fold of the law and undertook a social amelioration program for the benefit of the masses.

He supported the establishment of factories and other projects all over the country, ushering in industrialization.

On Quirino's death on Feb. 28, 1956, Senators Claro M. Recto and Lorenzo M. Tañada paid him tribute for fighting to assert Philippine sovereignty over the United States military bases in the country at the time.

Child rapist wanted in US nabbed in RP

A FUGITIVE from the United States has been arrested in the Philippines and will be deported to serve the remainder of a jail term for raping his daughter, immigration officials said Thursday.

Police caught Jeffrey Mark Clark, 45, Sunday in Cebu City, where he had been hiding since entering the Philippines in October under an assumed name, immigration commissioner Andrea Domingo said.

Clark was convicted of incest in 1997 and sentenced to undergo a three-year rehabilitation program for sex offenders at the Oregon State Hospital. He escaped a year later.

The immigration bureau said Clark was also the subject of a police investigation in the US in the killing of a family friend whose remains he allegedly burned after stealing his pension. *AFP*

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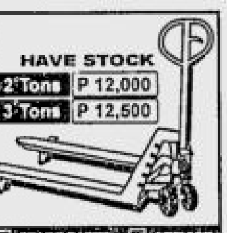

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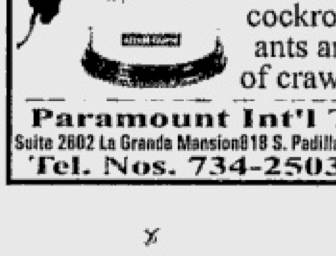

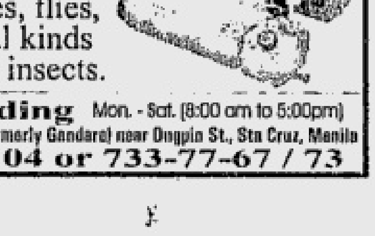

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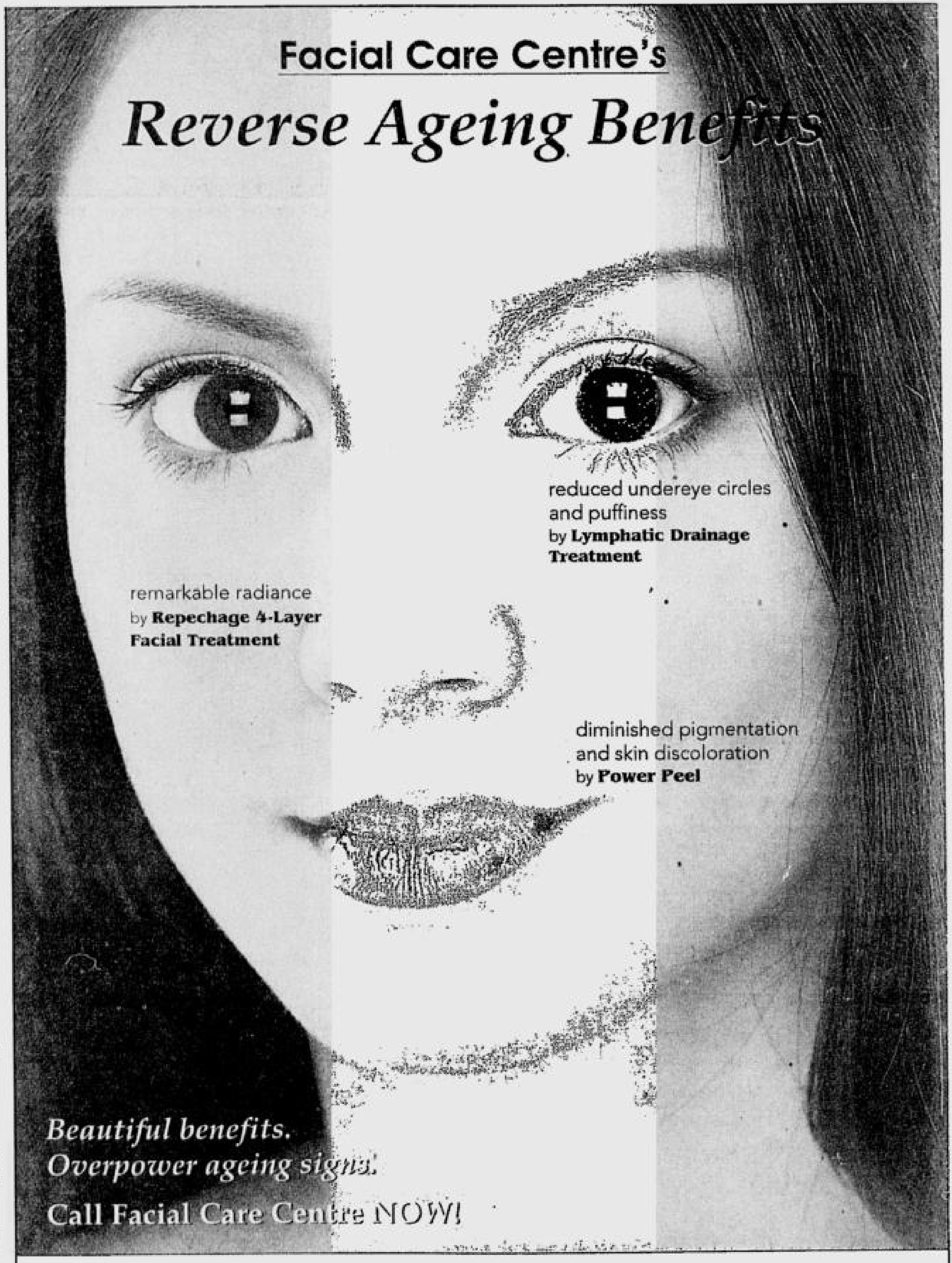

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200 NPAs attack Samar town killing 2 cops, wounding 1

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Two policemen were killed and another was wounded when some 200 members of the New People's Army attacked the town of Motiong, Samar, early yesterday morning.

The rebels took with them several high-powered firearms and grenades before escaping toward the eastern part of Motiong, a coastal town located 18 kilometers south of the capital town of Catbalogan, Samar, and some 90 kilometers north of Tacloban City.

The rebels, believed to be members of the NPA's Sergio Lobina Command, got the firearms from the police station and house-to-house searches of some policemen's homes.

Samar Rep. Antonio Eduardo Nachura expressed surprise at the NPA attack on Motiong town.

"This was the first raid on any municipality in my district since the administration of Marcos," Nachura said.

The rebels overran the police station at about 5:10 a.m. yesterday after a 30-minute firefight.

According to reports, the two-story police station was peppered with bullets from high-powered firearms and was ransacked by the rebels.

While the police station was being attacked, a separate group of NPA members was also conducting a house-to-house search in the poblacion.

Killed were SPO3 Jaime Roldan, 48, and PO3 Domingo Matados, 51, both of the Motiong police force.

PO1 Casimero Pegtuan, 32, also of the Motiong police station, was wounded in the left leg and right shoulder. He was brought to a hospital in Catbalogan town.

Roldan, Matados and Pegtuan were among the eight policemen on duty.

Reports reaching the PRO-8 based in Palo town showed that the rebels conducted a checkpoint in Barangay Cantong-tong, Jiabong town, about 14 kilometers from Motiong, apparently to block the entrance leading to the police station.

Before they fled, the rebels took 10 M16 rifles, one 9mm pistol, some grenades and three shotguns, according to a radio report.

It was also reported that at least three of the rebels were killed in the firefight, but their bodies were carted off by their comrades after the initial burst of gunfire.

Recovered by the soldiers from the encounter scene were a 38-cal. revolver, a.357 revolver, several rounds of ammunition and subversive documents.

According to a radio report, it was believed that most of the rebels were already in Motiong and in nearby Paranas town the night before the attack. ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil, Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Cynthia A. Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau***

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, March 1, 2002
2nd Week of Lent

1st Reading: **Gen 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28**
Gospel: **Mt 21:33-43, 45-46**

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders, "Listen to another example: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a fence around it, dug a hole for the winepress, built a watchtower, leased the vineyard to tenants and then went to a distant country. When harvest time came, the landowner sent his servants to the tenants to collect his share of the harvest. But the tenants seized his servants, beat one, killed another and stoned another.

Again the owner sent more servants, but they were treated in the same way.

Finally, he sent his son, thinking: 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they thought: 'This is the one who is to inherit the vineyard. Let us kill him and his inheritance will be ours.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

Now, what will the owner of the vineyard do with the tenants when he comes?" They said to him, "He will bring those evil to an evil end, and lease the vineyard to others who will pay him in due time."

And Jesus replied, "Have you never read what the Scriptures say? The stone which the builders rejected has become the keystone. This was the Lord's doing; and we marvel at it. Therefore I say to you: the kingdom of heaven will be taken from you and given to a people who will yield a harvest.

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard these parables, they realized that Jesus was referring to them. They would have arrested him, but they were afraid of the crowd who regarded him as a prophet.

Commentary

God's chosen Messiah found his main opposition in the anointed leaders and elders of God's chosen people.

And today, if Jesus Christ moved into our parish, would he be welcome? Or would he upset the education committee chairman for holding Bible sharing without permission, the parish priest for healing people on street corners instead of the official monthly healing Mass, the catechists because the youth were eager to listen to this newcomer? Threatened by initiatives we didn't originate and can't control?

Yet, nobody has a monopoly on God or God's vineyard or God's ways of sowing and reaping. All are welcome. Jesus himself showed this when John objected: "We saw someone who drove out demons by calling upon your name, and we stopped him because he doesn't follow you with us." Jesus replied, "Don't stop him. He who is not against you is for you." (Lk 9:50)

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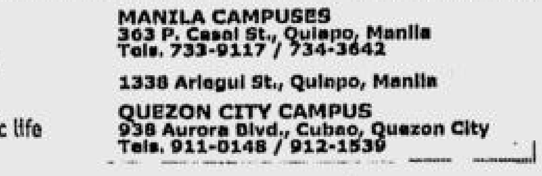

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PCGG to appeal 'really strange' court ruling

From page A1

son and namesake of the late dictator, had "for the nth time" sent word of his family's supposed desire to negotiate with the government.

Quoting e-mail from Steve Bomse, the PCGG's lawyer in the United States, Carranza said Marcos Jr.'s American lawyer John Bartko had expressed his client's interest to enter into settlement talks.

Yorac had repeatedly rebuffed such feelers, and insisted on the following four conditions for a settlement with the Marcoses:

- Full disclosure of Marcos assets abroad.
- Putting the assets under government control.
- A universal agreement binding all Marcos heirs.
- A public apology by the Marcoses to the Filipino people.

The PCGG's anniversary celebration was highlighted by the signing of a "joint communique and clarion call" by Yorac and representatives of civil society groups whose members were at the forefront of the fight to topple the Marcos dictatorship.

The communique called on the Filipino people to cooperate more with the PCGG to allow the commission to better fulfill its mandate in recovering the Marcos wealth.

Only Garchitorena

Criticizing Garchitorena, Yorac pointed out that only he among the Sandiganbayan justices had ruled that there was yet no sufficient basis to say that the Marcoses owned the $660-million Swiss escrow funds.

She said it was only Garchitorena who had made reference to the need for the authenticated Swiss Supreme Court decisions on the escrow funds.

She noted that the other Sandiganbayan justices in the five-member special division had said the relationship between the Marcoses and the funds kept in the name of six Swiss foundations was already duly established with "not only the evidence of the government but also the submissions of the Marcoses."

"It is only Mr. Francis Garchitorena, who, after 16 months of cogitation, stumbled upon the need for the authentication of (the English) translation (of the Swiss Supreme Court decisions)," Yorac said.

"The error of the *ponencia* is outdone only by the cruelty of the assailed reversal," according to the prefatory statement of the PCGG petition.

Yorac pointed out that the two other Sandiganbayan justices who concurred with Garchitorena in the Jan. 31 resolution did not mention the need for the authenticated copies of the translated Swiss Supreme Court documents.

She said Associate Justices Nicodemo Ferrer and Gregory Ong cited only the need to proceed to the trial proper, where the Marcoses would be allowed to present their side.

"Close scrutiny, as will be discussed in this petition, reveals that the reversal did not actually make the Marcoses' Swiss deposits any less ill-gotten than they were from the beginning," the PCGG petition said.

"The *ponente* below (Garchitorena) did not say that the deposits were not ill-gotten," it said. "Neither did the two justices who concurred with him."

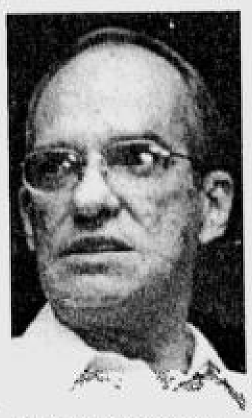
The PCGG petition also said the two dissenting justices—Associate Justices Catalino Castaneda and Francisco Villaruz—were "fully (and rightfully) convinced that not only had the Republic proven its case, the Marcoses had already admitted the allegations against them and waived their right to oppose the forfeiture of their admittedly ill-gotten wealth."

In the Jan. 31 resolution, Garchitorena said he had reversed his stand on the case with "some discomfort" and "a heavy dose of embarrassment."

He said the position he took in the September 2000 ruling issued by the first division that he chairs was "incorrect." According to that ruling, Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos "unlawfully acquired" the money during the 20-year Marcos regime.

Yorac had earlier said the Jan. 31 reversal hinged on "a very narrow technical matter."

"This is not really a setback because we have proof," she said. "But it delays matters again."



GARCHITORENA

Chips on . . .

From page A1

ID chip that could be embedded beneath a person's skin at the forearm or shoulder.

For airports, nuclear power plants and other high security facilities, the immediate benefits could be a closer-to-foolproof security system. But privacy advocates warn the chip can lead to encroachments on civil liberties.

Implant technology is another case of science fiction evolving into fact. Those who have long advanced the idea of implant chips say it could someday mean no more easy-to-counterfeit ID cards or dozing security guards.

Just a computer chip—about the size of a grain of rice—that would be difficult to remove and tough to mimic.

Other uses of the technology on the horizon—from an added device that will allow satellite tracking of an individual's every movement to the storage of sensitive data like medical records—are already attracting interest across the globe for tasks like foiling kidnappings or assisting paramedics.

Applied Digital Solutions' new "VeriChip" is another sign that Sept. 11 has catapulted the science of security into a realm with uncharted possibilities. But also raised new fears for privacy.

"The problem is that you always have to think about what the device will be used for tomorrow," said Lee Tien, a senior lawyer for the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a privacy advocacy group.

"It's what we call function creep. At first a device is used for applications we all agree are good but then it slowly is used for more than it was intended," he said.

Applied Digital, based in Palm Beach, Florida, says it will soon begin the process of getting Food and Drug Administration approval for the device. It intends to limit its marketing to companies that ensure that its human use is voluntary.

"The line in the sand that we draw is that the use of the VeriChip will always be voluntarily," said Keith Bolton, Applied Digital chief technology officer and vice president.

"We will never provide it to a company that intends to coerce people to use it."

More than a decade ago, Applied Digital bought a competing firm, Destron Fearing, which had been making chips implanted in animals for several years. Those chips were mainly bought by animal owners who wanted to provide another way for pound workers to identify a lost pet.

Chips for humans aren't that much different.

But the company was hesitant to market them for people because of ethical questions. The devastation of Sept. 11 solidified the company's resolve to market the human chip.

"It's a sad time . . . when people have to wonder whether it's safe in their own country," Bolton said.

The makers of the chip also foresee it being used to help emergency workers diagnose a lost Alzheimer's patient or access an unconscious patient's medical history.

Getting the implant will go something like this:

A person or company buys the chip from Applied Digital for about $200 and the company encodes it with the desired information. The person seeking the implant takes the tiny device to his doctor, who can insert it with a large needle device.

The doctor monitors the device for several weeks to make sure it doesn't move and that no infection develops.

The device has no power supply. It contains a millimeter-long magnetic coil that is activated when a scanning device is run across the skin above it. A tiny transmitter on the chip sends out the data.

Without a scanner, the chip cannot be read. Applied Digital plans to give away chip readers to hospitals and ambulance companies and hopes these will become standard equipment.

The chip has drawn attention from several religious groups.

Theologian and author Terry Cook said he was worried the identification chip could be the "mark of the beast," an identifying mark that, according to the Bible, all people will be forced to wear just before the apocalypse.

Applied Digital has consulted theologians and has appeared on a religious television program to assure viewers the chip did not fit the biblical description of the mark because it is under the skin and hidden from view.

Even with the privacy and religious concerns, some are already eager to use the product.

Jeff Jacobs of Florida has contacted the company in the hope of becoming the first person to purchase the chip.

Jacobs suffers from a number of serious allergies and wants to make sure medical personnel can diagnose him.

"They would know whom to contact, they would know what medications I'm on, and it's quite a few," he said. "They would know what I'm allergic to, what kind of operations I've had and where there might be problems." **AP**

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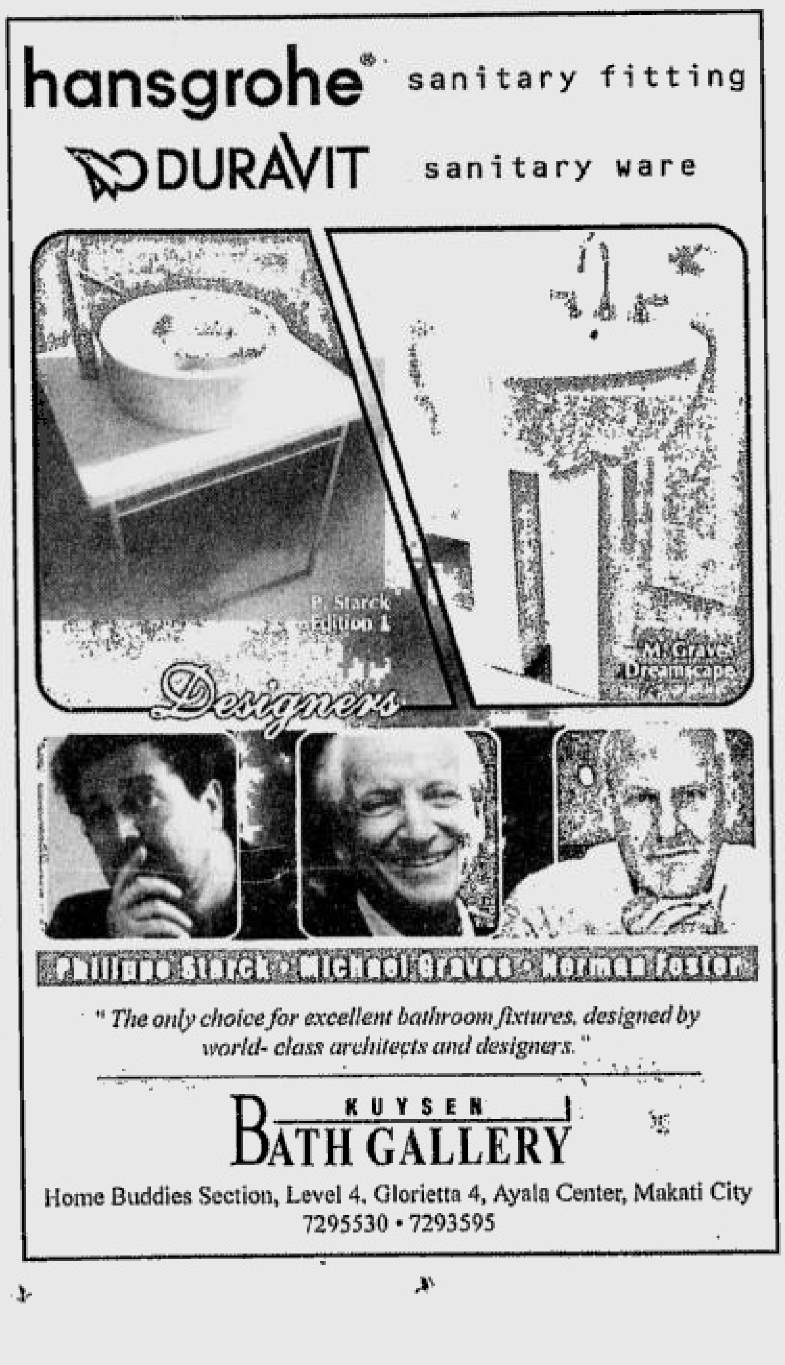

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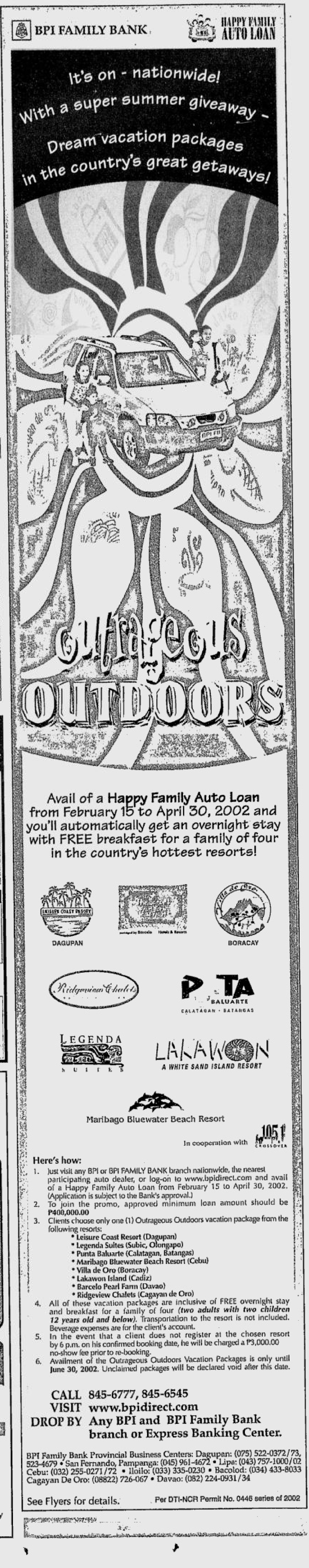

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5 fratmen get life for Venturina slay

From page A1

The five were ordered to pay the Venturina family more than P5 million in moral and other damages.

"The court finds no elation in handing down the decision," Mendoza said.

"In the torturous road of determining a just verdict, the court agonized at the thought of sending these bright and promising *'iskolar ng bayan'* behind bars for the most fruitful years of their lives. Doubtless, they would have been an asset to their families and to society."

Families and friends of those convicted hugged each other and openly wept upon hearing the verdict.

But it was a bittersweet victory for the victim's father, Edgardo Venturina, who expressed dismay that five of the accused were acquitted for the murder of his only son.

Acquitted were Reynaldo Ablanida, 28; Carlo Jolette Fajardo, 24; Gilbert Magpantay, 28; George Morano, 30; and Raymond Narag, 26.

"I can wear a smile now because the people who killed my son would be put behind bars," Venturina said.

"But I know that this (peace of mind) is only temporary and that I should always be on guard for possible threats to the security of my family," he added.

Still and all, Venturina said Judge Mendoza had been fair.

Decision

In his 83-page decision, Mendoza said that the qualifying circumstance of treachery was present when the accused attacked Venturina and several of his Sigma Rho brods at the Beach House Canteen on Dec. 8, 1994.

Mendoza said the accused did not give their rival fratmen the opportunity to defend themselves. They whacked Venturina and his brods with baseball bats and lead pipes.

"They meant to kill, not just maim, disable or disfigure," the judge said. "The wounds inflicted (on Dennis Venturina) were fatal and the weapons used were baseball bats and lead pipes directed mostly at the back of the head and vital portions of the body of the victims."

Venturina was a 22-year-old graduating student at the UP College of Public Administration then.

Mendoza, however, explained that he did not mete out the death penalty the five convicted men due to the "absence of any aggravating circumstance."

"While the attack was obviously premeditated, such a determination was not evident," the judge added.

Hardest, longest

In an interview, Mendoza said the decision was "the hardest and longest" decision he had written in his nearly 14 years as a judge.

"I really agonized when I was writing that decision. Telling who should be convicted or acquitted was not so hard because the evidence was there. It's just so difficult to put such promising, young men behind bars," he said.

The case was submitted for decision two months ago. The trial dragged on for seven years, with the defense presenting 46 witnesses. The star prosecution witness was cross-examined by six lawyers.

But Mendoza admitted that it was only on Wednesday night that he was able to shorten his decision to 83 pages from the original 300 pages as well as insert his "final word" on the case.

Medalla, who now has a wife and two children, said he was denied justice. The other accused refused to talk with newsmen after the verdict was read.

Lawyer William Chua, counsel for Feliciano, Narag and Morano, said he was "too upset to make a comment."

The other members of the defense panel were Maximino Patag, Stephen Monsante, Francisco Ignalaga, Romano Imperial and Gaudencio Tulyao Jr. They said they had yet to discuss their next move.

Narag

In his decision, Mendoza ordered the immediate release of Narag, a UP Public Administration cum laude graduate. He and Feliciano have been languishing at the Quezon City Jail for five years now.

Narag and Feliciano were denied the right to bail in 1996 by then Presiding Judge Tirso Velasco after prosecution witness Cesar Mangrobang Jr. identified both of the accused as the ones who actually hit Venturina.

Other witnesses corroborated Mangrobang's testimony against Feliciano, but no other witness came forward to testify that Narag had indeed attacked Venturina.

Benedict Guerrero, one of the suspects, remains at large. He will undergo trial for murder if arrested.

In his decision, Mendoza blamed "the distorted and depraved sense of values the fraternities have inculcated in the minds of their members" for the death of Venturina and the fate of those convicted of murder.

"Dennis Venturina was not the only victim. Those who were found guilty are likewise victims for they are, in their hearts, not rogues, rakes or murderers," he said in his decision.

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RP no Vietnam . . .

From page A1

recommended that lawmakers lift restrictions on military cooperation with violence-torn Indonesia.

In a sweeping overview of the security situation in the region, Blair promised an assertive strategy to protect US interests and combat the terrorist threat wherever it existed.

"We cannot provide adequate protection to our citizens and our forces while only playing defense," he told two House subcommittees handling Pacific, Asian and Middle Eastern Affairs.

But he pointed out that the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington and the subsequent anti-terrorism operations in Afghanistan, the Philippines and elsewhere had created new manpower requirements.

"Over 5,000 additional billets are needed to address the full range of force protection, antiterrorism, and counter-terrorism missions throughout (the US Pacific Command)," he said.

The new counter-terrorism experts will participate in increased shore and harbor security patrols, according to Blair. They will also ensure security at foreign ports and airfields used by the US military, man round-the-clock regional command and control facilities, and take part in crisis action teams.

Blair made the request as Washington sent to the Philippines six more military helicopters and a team of aviation experts to boost the US military presence in the southern part of the country.

More money

Also on Wednesday, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said the Pentagon needed a big budget increase next year to keep up the war on terrorism that had expanded from Afghanistan to the Philippines and now appeared to be moving to Georgia.

"We've got to have the same staying power for this conflict as your generation did in World War II," Wolfowitz told the US Senate appropriations subcommittee on defense, which includes three decorated veterans of that war.

"We are trying to fight a war on terrorism and prepare our forces for any conflict that may come a decade from now," Wolfowitz said in defense of the Bush administration's $379-billion defense budget request for 2003, a $48-billion increase over 2002.

Asked about a proposal for a $10-billion "flexibility fund" over which several senators had expressed concern, Wolfowitz said the purpose of the money was "to continue the kind of operation we are conducting at the same levels as today."

He did not give details.

The Pentagon plans to send between 45 and 200 troops to Georgia to help train its military amid concerns over a burgeoning al-Qaida presence in the Pankisi Gorge, a haven used by Chechen rebels, a senior US military official said Wednesday.

'No end in sight'

But at least one senator, Robert Byrd, did not seem impressed with Wolfowitz's arguments.

"What I see here seems to be an expanding agenda," Byrd said, adding:

"There's no end in sight of our mission in Afghanistan . . . Look at the Philippines . . . look at Colombia . . . Iraq . . . and so on and so on and so on. If we expect to kill every terrorist in the world, that's going to keep us going beyond doomsday. How long can we afford this?"

Wolfowitz replied that the United States did not want "a long-term continued presence" in Afghanistan.

But "I can't tell you when we will have won," he said.

The US government began sending advisers to Vietnam in the 1960s, eventually increasing its combat troop presence to fight a full-fledged war alongside the South against the communist North.

Ultimately, the United States was forced to withdraw its forces from Vietnam, and Saigon fell to the North in 1975.

As many as 660 elite US troops have been deployed for joint exercises with the Philippine military aimed at crushing the Abu Sayyaf, which has been holding hostages including a US missionary couple and a Filipino nurse in Basilan.

The United States has linked the Abu Sayyaf to Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network, alleged masterminds of the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington. ***Reports from Inquirer wires***

Opus Dei . . .

From page A1

to help people achieve holiness daily "through one's professional work." By the time of his death on June 26, 1975, Opus Dei had spread to 32 countries with 60,000 members.

A third of the world's bishops petitioned the Vatican to open his cause of beatification and canonization.

Vatican procedures for canonization—a formal declaration that someone is a saint—require an exhaustive investigation of a potential saint's life, plus two authenticated miracles.

Pope John Paul II beatified Monsignor Escriva in Saint Peter's Square on May 17, 1992 after the Vatican authenticated cases of miraculous cure attributed to his intercession.

Authenticated miracles

In 1976, a terminally ill Carmelite nun recovered overnight after her sister asked Escriva's intercession.

On Dec. 20, 2001, the Vatican authenticated a second miracle attributed to Blessed Josemaria. In 1992, a Spanish doctor suffering for years from chronic radiodermatitis (caused by repeated exposure to x-rays) was healed in two weeks after he and his wife prayed for Escriva's intercession.

"Blessed Josemaria is indeed a powerful intercessor before God. I encourage you to turn to him for your spiritual and material needs," Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin said in a homily at the 100th birth anniversary of Escriva at the Manila Cathedral on Jan. 9.

Different classes

Opus Dei members follow "the plan of life" which include daily Mass, rosary, spiritual reading and mental prayer.

There are different classes of membership. Numerary members pledge to remain celibate and generally live in designated Opus Dei houses. They commit their entire salaries to Opus Dei.

Supernumerary members may be married and live with their families but also contribute a substantial portion of their income to Opus Dei.

Numerary priests hold the top positions in Opus Dei and in the Vatican. Each Opus Dei house is assigned a numerary priest.

Associate members also pledge celibacy but do not live in Opus Dei houses.

Cooperators, who do not have to be Catholics, provide financial support but are not considered members.

Controversy

In the 1980s, the granting of a "personal prelature" to the Opus Dei stirred controversy as it meant that Opus Dei was now practically an independent entity within the Church headed by its own prelate and defined by persons rather than by geographical areas such as dioceses. Therefore, local bishops have little control over Opus Dei members, activities and practices.

Camacho says he will sell even more zero coupon bonds for gov't

By Clarissa Batino

UNDETERRED by the controversy that accompanied the issuance of zero-coupon bonds that nearly derailed his appointment, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said yesterday the government would issue even more zero coupon bonds this year.

Camacho said Malacañang has given the Department of Finance the authority to issue as much as P300 billion in zero coupon bonds starting this year.

This was on top of the P35 billion in 10-year zero coupon bonds issued by the government last October that became the subject of controversy involving the secretary's sister, Marissa Camacho-Reyes.

The 10-year zeroes were underwritten by the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. for Code-NGO, a non-governmental group headed by Reyes that earned over P1.8 billion in the transaction.

"We will continue to use the zeroes under the borrowing program of the national government," Camacho said.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the government might issue P20 billion worth of zero coupon bonds in order to net P5 billion.

"This is very tentative and we have not yet decided on it. The only thing we are certain of is that we would issue zeroes within the year," said Edeza.

Zero coupon bonds are debt instruments that do not earn for the investor a regular interest rate. Instead, investors buy the bonds at a deep discount but get paid the face value on maturation.

Asked what he would do to ensure that the new zero bonds issue would not be controversial, Camacho said: "I would disown my family."

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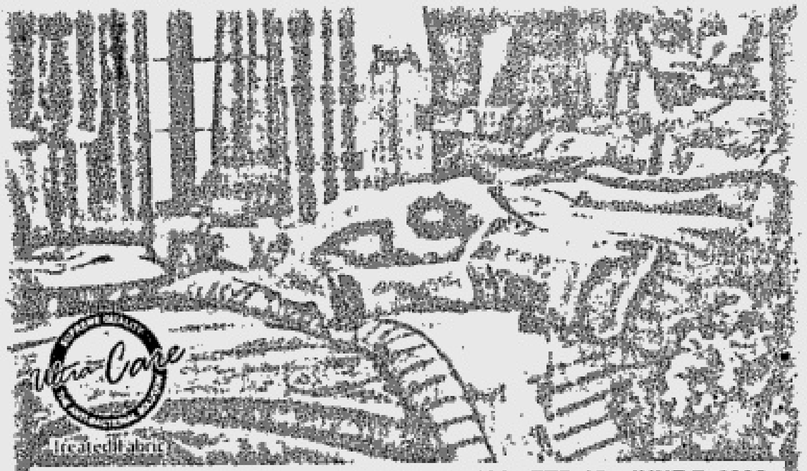

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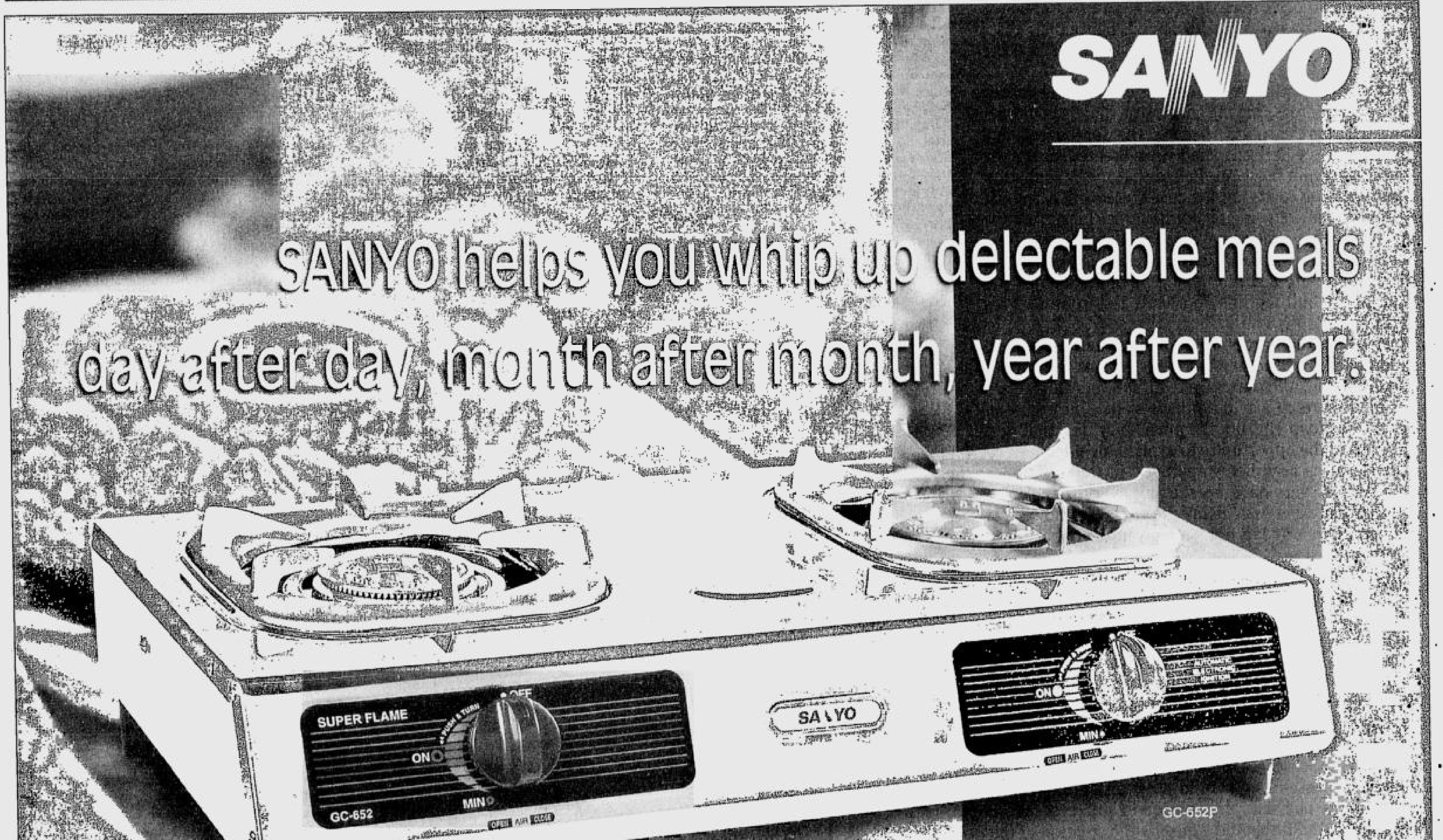

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Rush to judgment?

EDITORIAL

EVER the action star, Joseph Estrada has shoved aside his supporting cast to face the bad guys all by himself. On Wednesday, Estrada told his high-powered team of defense lawyers he would not need their services anymore. But unlike in the movies, Estrada doesn't look like he is going to deal with the bad guys *mano a mano*. Instead he seems to be throwing up his hands in abject surrender.

In dismissing his lawyers, Estrada didn't say how he planned to defend himself against the charges of plunder, perjury and illegal use of alias filed by government and private prosecutors. Earlier in the week, he already committed what many thought to be a serious blunder when he admitted that he had signed the bank documents introduced during his impeachment trial, using the name of Jose Velarde. To some observers that virtually clinched the case for illegal use of alias, if not plunder, since the Jose Velarde account reportedly contained some P3.2 billion in deposits at one time. After that fiasco, maybe his lawyers were only too happy to follow his order to withdraw.

So who will be there to represent him in court? Surely Estrada is not thinking of doing what his idol, Ferdinand Marcos, did and argue in his own defense? But just in case the thought has occurred to him, he ought to be reminded of the saying that a lawyer who defends himself has a fool for a client. Presumably a non-lawyer who undertakes the same thing must be more mentally challenged.

Estrada did explain that he instructed his lawyers to withdraw after reaching the conclusion that he could not get justice from the courts. He noted that for the first time in history, a special court had been created to try the cases against him. He complained that there seemed to be undue haste in trying his cases, creating a "public perception" that he was guilty although he hasn't had the chance to present evidence in his own defense.

This is vintage Joseph Estrada playing the role of martyr, the oppressed hero standing alone against the world, and mouthing lines probably fed to him by his smart lawyers.

Even before the start of the Senate impeachment trial, Estrada had vowed to explain everything at the proper forum. But when the trial started, his lawyers and Senate allies made sure he would not have to face his accusers. After he was toppled from the presidency, he cried that he never had the opportunity to explain his side.

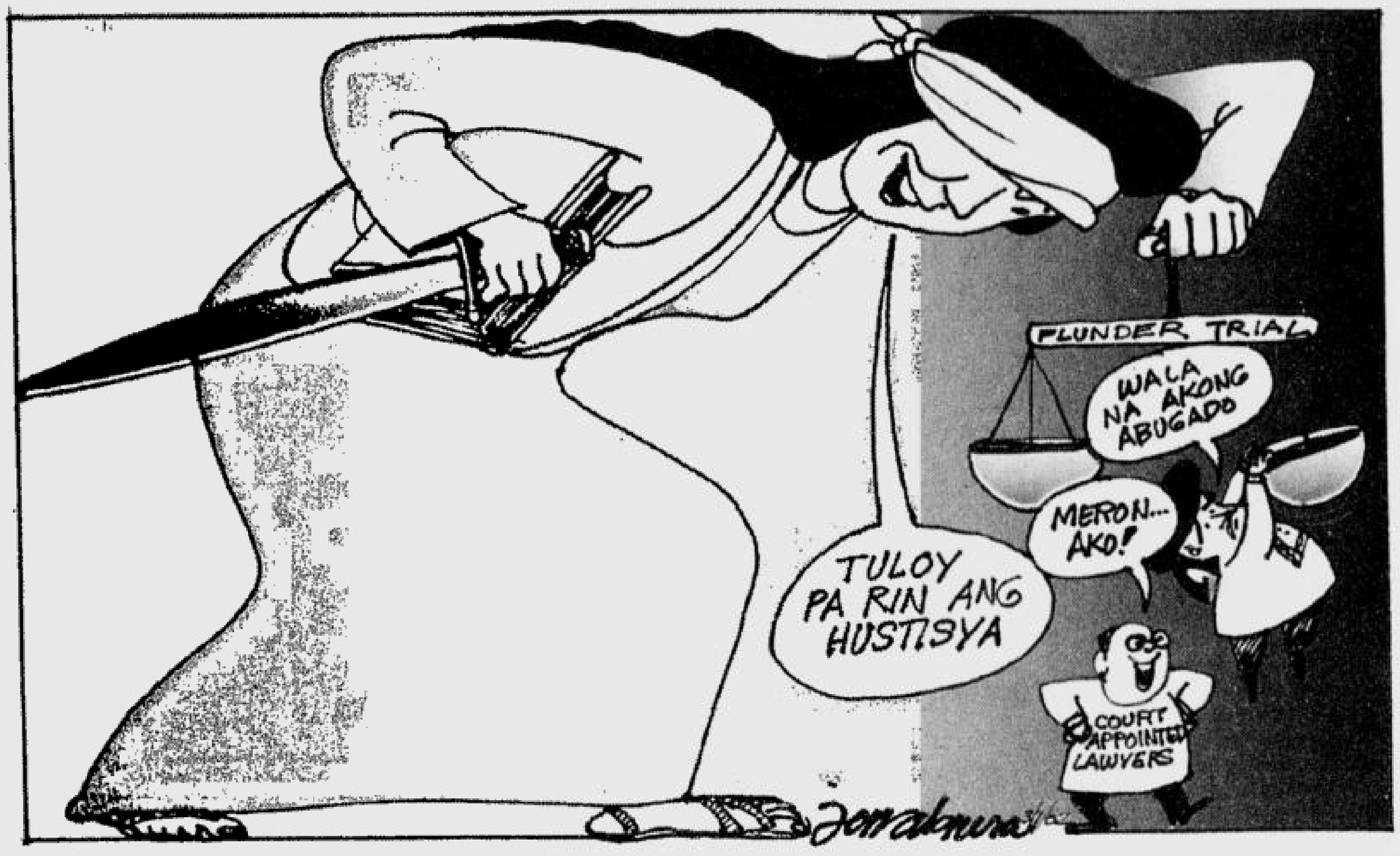
This script is now being replayed in the Sandiganbayan. His lawyers have been using every trick in the book to derail or at least delay the trial. And now he is complaining that he has not been given the opportunity to present his case.

But how can he present witnesses or evidence when the prosecution isn't even done with its own presentation? Whether he likes it or not that is how things are done: first, the prosecutor presents his case and then the defense takes over. How can Estrada feign impatience about presenting his side when his own lawyers have been doing everything to ensure that the trial would never reach that stage?

If Estrada really wants to have the opportunity to present his own case, then he should not have withdrawn his lawyers. Instead he should have ordered them to remove all the obstacles they put up to stall or stop the proceedings. And he should welcome the creation of the Special Division which was meant precisely to speed up his trial.

Thousands of prisoners languishing in jail for many years for lack of judges would probably give an arm and a foot to have their cases heard and decided quickly. And here you have Estrada questioning why a special court had to be created for the first time to hear his case. In case he hasn't noticed, this is also the first time that a former president stands accused of the most shameful and serious crimes.

If Estrada wants to do away with the services of his lawyers, that is his call. There are procedures laid down by law to ensure that his rights are protected. As a court official has pointed out, the Sandiganbayan had already assigned three lawyers from the Public Attorneys Office to handle his defense. The Special Division should just proceed to hear the cases against him. The government can't leave it to God or the Filipino people to render justice, as Estrada solemnly intoned. History is too far in the future, and Judgment Day may take a little while longer.



General Ilagan is no General MacArthur

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

FORMER PRESIDENT Estrada is trying to ape Ninoy Aquino in dismissing his lawyers and refusing to participate in his trial. If you will remember, Ninoy did not defend himself in his trial during the Marcos regime. "What's the use?" he said. "The military judges have already made up their minds and I would be convicted no matter what I do." Erap is echoing that reasoning now. True enough, Ninoy was convicted and sentenced to death: Will Erap end the same way?

In refusing to participate in his trial, Erap obviously wants to make himself a martyr, just like Ninoy and, before him, Mahatma Gandhi. Many will be offended by the comparisons, but let me warn Erap that both Ninoy and Gandhi ended up dead from assassins' bullets.

Come to think of it, dismissing his lawyers may be the best thing Erap has done so far. I'm sure they're a big drain on his finances but all they have been able to do for him was irritate the public with their delaying tactics. They have only managed to give the impression that their client is guilty. It's an old rule among lawyers that if you can't win a case, delay it.

An accused innocent of the charges against him would like nothing better than to have a quick trial so he can be cleared as quickly as possible. And that is why the Constitution mandates that an accused be entitled to a quick trial. So it goes against human nature for an accused who is innocent to want to delay his trial. By trying to delay his trial, Erap's lawyers only give the impression that he must be guilty. So instead of being presumed innocent until proven otherwise, the public is presuming that Erap is already guilty although the trial has barely started.

Is Erap getting the best legal advice? Is delay the best defense his lawyers can manage for him?

Here's another ominous sign: Certain lawyers in Erap's defense team have a record of withdrawing from a case when they're about to lose it. In withdrawing from Erap's case, are they running true to form?

* * *

Air Force Brig. Gen. Marciano Ilagan is in disgrace for allowing himself to be caught by cameramen being carried by a civilian from the beach to a boat so he wouldn't get his feet wet. In contrast, his American counterpart readily waded through the water, boots and all, to get to the boat. I don't understand what the fuss is all about.

Ilagan is from the Air Force, not the Navy, so naturally he is averse to water. If it had been a Navy admiral who had himself carried to the boat because he is afraid of water, that would have been something else. But Ilagan is from the Air Force; his specialty is flying through the air, not wading through water. An Air Force general in the water is as out of place as a fish out of the water or a Navy officer flying in the air. Besides, pilot's boots are very expensive and Ilagan's are probably new, bought especially for the Balikatan exercises (we can't let the Americans look down condescendingly on our pilots' boots).

We can't compare Ilagan with Gen. Douglas MacArthur either, who became world famous by having himself photographed (several times, some say) wading in the Leyte surf to shore. MacArthur is from the army, not the air force, and his favorite battle strategy is to land Marines on the South Sea islands. And what would have happened to history had MacArthur been photographed riding piggyback on a hapless soldier, Brig. Gen. Carlos P. Romulo, for instance? History books don't say this but Romulo almost drowned in that landing. When MacArthur stepped off that landing barge, the water was only up to his knees. But when Romulo jumped in after MacArthur, the water was over his head. He forgot that MacArthur was more than six feet tall, and he was only 4'11."

* * *

Mayor Lito Atienza announced last week that Manila is waiting to host the Bonifacio Monument in Caloocan City which is about to be run over by the extension of the Metro Rail Transit from North Avenue in Quezon City. (PDI, 2/22/02) After all, Bonifacio is a native of Manila. If Manila can host the monument of Jose Rizal who is from Laguna, why not its own native son?

Caloocan Mayor Rey Malonzo wants to transfer Bonifacio to Tala, Novaliches, and the National Historical Commission doesn't want it moved. But their wishes are impractical. There is no open place big enough in Novaliches to put it. And it is already out of place in its present site. It is hemmed in by tall buildings, being smothered by vehicles going around it at all hours, and being damaged by the acid rain caused by the pollution being spewed by these vehicles. The artistry and genius of National Artist Guillermo Tolentino cannot be appreciated because people are afraid to cross the street to the monument to look closely at the sculptures. We owe it to Bonifacio and Tolentino, and to the Filipino people, to move the monument to a better location. Rizal Park is the best place for it.

* * *

Calling all Philets: Don't forget the testimonial dinner tomorrow evening at 7 at the Club Filipino for two Philets alumni in the foreign service: Assistant Foreign Affairs Secretary Sonia Cataumber-Brady and Ambassador to Hungary Andy del Rosario.

The testimonial will coincide with the general assembly and election of 10 members of the board of trustees of the Philets Foundation Inc., an association of alumni of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters of the University of Sto. Tomas.

For details, you may contact the Foundation secretariat (Menchu Bon) at Tel. Nos. 928-5117 and 456-9339.

More than meets the eye

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I GOT this from a friend of mine in the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank in California. He tells this fascinating tale:

Recently, he says, a Filipino supermarket in Los Angeles called Island Pacific was taken over by the Sapphire Reserve Company, LLC. Island Pacific was formerly owned by William Lim, and the takeover was announced by his son, Niño Jefferson Lim, who was its general manager. Seemingly a simple transaction, this event in fact is but a part of a long chain of events, which has yet to reach its ending.

This William Lim is the same William Lim who belonged to deposed President Estrada's coterie of closest friends. He is a distributor of Asian foods in the United States and has interests in several supermarkets in California. He used to boast of his connections to Erap, and threw lavish parties for him each time the former president went to the United States, sparing no expense to see to his friend and patron's comfort. Lim put up Island Pacific in the United States when Erap was still President, having indeed no less than the President, the First Lady and Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as guests at its inauguration. At that time rumors were already rife that Erap or Loi or both had money in it. Quite curiously, the general partner of Sapphire Reserve Co., in whose hands Island Pacific has fallen, is listed as one Johnita Ejercito.

Why did Lim sell out to Sapphire, or allow his company to be taken over by it?

Here's where the tale gets tangled. On paper, it was William Lim's sons who appeared as the owners of the company. But it was well known in trade circles in the United States that William actually owned and ran it. It was equally well known that he had a partner in the company, who belonged as well to Erap's coterie of closest friends. That partner was Atong Ang.

In the middle of last year, Ang was reported in the Filipino papers in the United States to have told Sen. Nene Pimentel, during the latter's visit there, that he was planning to invest in supermarkets. Trade circles in California would confirm that he in fact did so. He invested in Island Pacific. There was at least a half-truth in Lim's son, Niño, introducing a son of Ang, named Richard, to business circles as his "partner." The bigger truth was that their fathers were so. And it must be asked whether Ang was using his own money or was fronting for someone bigger than himself. Lim and Ang had opened a branch of Island Pacific in Vallejo and were planning to put up other branches in Union City, San Jose and Las Vegas. Things looked bright for them.

Ang's entrance in the picture, however, drew unwanted attention from Filipino newspapers in the West Coast and eventually from US authorities. At the first sign of trouble, Lim denied vehemently that he had any dealings with Ang, or that Ang had anything to do with Island Pacific. He threatened to sue anybody that said so, hiring for the purpose the Washingtón law firm, Fullbright and Jaworski, the same firm that pinned down Richard Nixon on Watergate. He demanded apologies and retractions from Filipino newspapers that expressly made the connection, or hinted at it.

But undaunted, a Filipino newspaper, the LA Asian Journal, ran a story quoting Ang's lawyer who said Ang had a perfectly legitimate reason for doing business in the United States. Ang, his lawyer said, had been granted a work permit by the INS in August last year after showing proof that he had taken a job as an assistant to the president of UFC Seafood and Food Co. The owner of that company is William Lim. The connection is undeniable.

Meanwhile, however, US authorities had begun sniffing around. In November last year, the NBI took in Ang for questioning. They released him shortly afterward, but they clearly have not finished with him yet.

Alarmed by these revelations, Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank itself, which had a $30-million credit line on Lim, did a background investigation on him. At the end of which, it decided to take control of his companies, including UFC. That brings us to the recent sudden declaration by Lim's son that Island Pacific was no longer theirs, it had been taken over by another company. One owned by a Johnita Ejercito.

I actually heard some of this stuff before in July and August last year, when I visited the United States. That was the time Isafp chief, Victor Corpus, came out with his exposé on Sen. Panfilo Lacson's properties in California, which he never got to prove in the Senate hearings. I remember that some Filipinos there were saying then that although Corpus' revelations were probably true, they overlooked, or drew attention away from a more obvious shady character in the person of Ang who had begun make his presence felt in the Filipino community in California. At the time, Ang was telling everyone in the West Coast about his plans to go into the supermarket business in a big way.

The impeachment trial clearly shows Ang's wealth is an ill-gotten one. It further clearly shows much of it is not his but his benefactor's, who is Erap. It still further clearly shows the wealth belongs to neither of them, but to the people from whom they stole it. Ang's business activities have one thing writ large on them, and that is laundering. That is washing dirty money in the dark and turning it into a clean one for all the world to see.

Well, as far as I can recall, we have an extradition treaty with the United States. Ang is a felon, a fugitive from Philippine justice. Or should be. If nothing has been slapped on him yet, it can't be a testament to his innocence, it can only be a testament to the justice department's blindness. But it does give a new spin to Erap wanting to go to the United States. Maybe he'd like to see personally if he's not being jerked around by his own people?

Maybe it's not just his knees that require surgical operation?

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Holding justice off once again

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

WHEN deposed President Joseph Estrada announced on TV last Wednesday that he was dismissing his lawyers defending him in the plunder and other related cases in the Sandiganbayan, his reason was that "I sense that I will no longer obtain justice."

He made the dramatic announcement on TV—a public platform—rather than inside the Sandiganbayan, emphasizing his scorn for the Philippine judicial system. His lawyers said they had bridled at the creation of a special panel in the Sandiganbayan, assigned exclusively to try the cases against Estrada, which has decided to hold hearings three times a week beginning on March 18. The court cited provisions of the Rules of Procedure which call for "continuous trial on a weekly or other short-term trial calendar...so as to ensure a speedy trial."

With the announcement, Estrada shifted the focus of the trial to the public arena where he could play up the theme that he is not getting due process and a fair trial, and the prosecution was rushing to convict him.

Whether or not the withdrawal of his lawyers is a tactical move, the fact is that it came after Estrada had admitted in a TV interview that he had signed a false name—that of Jose Velarde—in a bank transaction, an admission that is more likely to weaken rather than strengthen his defense. This admission appears to have shocked his lawyers, and their withdrawal and the reasons they presented could be an expression of their disgust over their undisciplined client, Estrada.

In October 2000, Estrada shot himself in the foot when he admitted in a press conference that his Erap Muslim Youth Foundation had received from former Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson P200 million, although he insisted that he did not know it came from *jueteng* earnings. This admission shocked his lawyers.

His lawyers contend that the odds are stacked against their client in the judicial system, and that they could not physically cope with a speedy trial requiring them to appear in court three times a week. This contention is a shallow pretext. The Estrada trial is the biggest and most important criminal trial in the history of this country; it is the first time that a Filipino President has been put on trial for serious crimes. It is therefore a test of the ability of the judicial system to hold a President accountable for his acts in the highest and most powerful office of the land, and secondly, its ability to give the defendant a swift trial.

The special circumstances that led to the creation of the special panel in the Sandiganbayan are: the cases have been punctuated by seemingly endless delays (caused mainly by the delaying tactics of the defense lawyers); the Sandiganbayan had been rocked by discord in the dispute between the former presiding justice, Francis Garchitorena, and former presiding judge of the Third Division, Anacleto Badoy; and the growing impatience of the public over the delays that have mocked the ideal of a speedy administration of justice.

It is strange that lawyers, who are officers of the court, are complaining about a three-times-a-week session that should terminate the Estrada cases early. Perhaps, one reason is that lawyers are so used to delays that they find shocking and upsetting to their lethargy when the court decrees that, for a change of pace, especially on the Estrada cases, a timetable should be set for the completion of the trial.

If Estrada's lawyers find this ruling to speed up the trial unprecedented in the annals of the judicial system, it is because the Estrada cases are so fundamentally unique and important to the credibility of the judicial system and the lawyers are now being asked to break their inertia of malingering on their cases. The trial is a once-in-a-lifetime experience in the judicial system involving the once most powerful official of the land, and the trial therefore deserves the full attention of the officers of the court—including prosecutors, defense lawyers and the judges.

The truth of the matter is that since the Ombudsman filed the cases against Estrada with the Sandiganbayan in April last year, the court, as well as the Supreme Court to which petitions over procedural issues were filed, has been assaulted by waves of motions and petitions, in every inch of the way, the effect of which has been to evade trial on the merits.

The courts have, on the basis of records, leaned over backwards to accommodate these petitions that have abused the judicial system and stretched its elasticity to the limit. Theoretically, it would be in the interest of Estrada, or for that matter any defendant in a criminal case, to enter into a trial on the merits and have an early termination. But based on the relentless siege from the defense lawyers to delay the trial, Estrada is not really interested to face the music, so to speak. An expeditious trial is not in the cards, as far as the defense lawyers are concerned. Thus, Estrada and his lawyers cannot say that he is not getting a fair deal in the courts. These delaying tactics make sense when we consider the campaign to allow Estrada to go to the United States for medical treatment of his arthritic knees.

When he says that his cases were being tried with "undue haste" which in turn "generates public perception that I'm already guilty although there's still a lot of evidence to be presented," what he is really saying is that he should be free to abuse the judicial system. If evidence has not been presented by the defense, the reason is that the process has been bogged down by issues on procedures and technicalities.

Kidney donor needed

MY secret age is no secret any more. For people who have eyes to see and ears to hear easily notice that I am already a senior citizen. But to be a senior citizen is for me a pure joy and a special gift of God.

I didn't notice I was already old until I became the center of attention of my family and relatives.

HIGH BLOOD

Oscar R. Landicho

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

I am now called DOM—desirable old man and definitely not dirty old man.

I find aging liberating and exciting. I am no longer worried about financial pressures. Our house had long been fully paid and our children who were all born in Sydney, are gainfully employed.

Aging is like a wind of change. I have to change my lifestyle and priorities. I am no longer interested in the "rat race."

As I wake up in the morning, I can now enjoy the beauty of the sunrise and understand the importance of the environment. We should protect the environment because it is a living thing.

The timing of my aging is almost an absolute perfection. I am no longer worried about many things. Instead, I spend my time reading the many books I have long wanted to read. I also walk a lot and seldom drive my car.

Each day of my life is a miracle. And each day is full of beauty and adventure. I don't want to waste any of it. Saying a prayer each morning is my fresh way to start my day. I pray not just to thank God for the chance to be alive again but to enjoy it. I also pray to be sensitive and helpful to others and to do nothing that will hurt anyone.

I didn't really like to live and work in Australia. But when President Ferdinand Marcos imposed martial law and closed down The Manila Times, of which I was a reporter, on Sept. 21, 1972, I woke up unemployed.

I migrated to Australia because the Sydney Daily Telegraph offered me a good job as a journalist.

I had to reprogram my life in Sydney. When I was in Manila, I didn't have to wash and iron my clothes, cook my food and even change the oil of my car. But I had a different life in Sydney because I did not have a relative to help me. I was the first in my family to migrate to Australia. But now some 30 young Landichos who are my children and grandchildren of my brother and sisters, roam the land Down Under.

After working in Sydney for more than 20 years, I returned to Manila to prepare for my retirement and to die in the country that I love so much. But God had another plan for me.

In June 2000 I suffered a kidney failure in Manila. My ailment changed all my plans. I had to return to Sydney because Manila is an expensive place to be sick in. And my family flew to Manila and convinced me to undergo treatment in Sydney.

I am lucky and grateful that I migrated to Sydney. The Australian government supports medical treatment for life-threatening ailments and subsidizes the costs of medications. And when you enter a hospital in Sydney, you don't have to pay a deposit. All you need is to present your Medicare Card. This is possible only when people pay their taxes and corruption is an exception and not the rule.

Of course, I didn't want to be sick. But when I got sick, I had to accept the truth and find out what was wrong with me.

I asked my doctors and nurses about my ailment. When I learned about my ailment, I decided to write a book about it. My book is "Living with Malfunctioning Kidneys." It is a true story based on my real life experience. Booklore Publishing Corp. in Manila published it last year.

I now fervently pray as I have never prayed before that I can find a kidney donor so I can have a kidney transplant operation. Without a kidney transplant operation, I will have to undergo hemodialysis for the rest of my life. In Australia, a kidney donor can easily recover in three days and not three months.

Life must go on even when I am sick. When I undergo hemodialysis, I just don't spend my time in the hospital but invest it in reading inspirational books, meditating and praying for a miracle.

And I am lucky and grateful that many people in Australia, the Philippines and other parts of the world are praying for me. My parish in Sydney also prays for me during Masses.

I can understand now why many overseas Filipino "oldies" want to return to the Philippines. When you are old, you want to be in the company of your good relatives, classmates and friends. And there is no place like home.

Oscar R. Landicho is the 1985 Australian Human Rights Media (Print) Award winner.

The inner 'kastilaloy'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"MORE Spanish than we think," seems to be a statement that many people agree with. Watching the Spanish revue "Bravo Zarzuela!" I was struck by how many of the movements and dances (and even costumes!) depicted were eerily echoed in many "Filipino" dances, especially those depicting festivities among lowland rural Filipinos.

I could just imagine homesick friars and *peninsulares* teaching dances or staging rituals from their childhoods to Indio children and friends for performing, say, at an upcoming fiesta or to greet a visiting dignitary. These dances would become so popular that the performers would be asked to stage them again and again, and in the process "indigenizing" the movements, music, images and costumes.

And the same process most probably took place when it came to food, architecture, religion and language.

Ric Ramos, a consultant with the Spanish Embassy, says he remembers Alejandro Roces once remarking that Filipinos may not realize how much of our culture is rooted in Spain "because it has become so much a part of us already that we don't notice it."

He adds: "When I attended my Spanish class late last year, our Filipina teacher told us that roughly 8,000 words in Tagalog are of Spanish origin. Likewise, Instituto Cervantes estimates that about 25 percent of Tagalog words came from Spanish. (The percentage) must be higher in the Visayas where words like *cambio, barato* (cheap) and others are commonly used."

Perhaps rekindling our common past and heritage with Spain would serve us better as a people, says Ric, instead of continuing our obsession with "the junk we are constantly getting from the good ol' US of A!"

* * *

BUT here is one Pinay who got in touch with her "inner *kastilaloy*" precisely in the evil kingdom of pop culture, the United States.

Marcie Santos-Taylor, in a column for a New Jersey-based Filipino paper, writes that when she first arrived in the United States, she felt unsure about what box to check in forms asking for her "ethnic group." "The obvious group or racial category for Filipinos to identify with is of course, 'Asian,' for after all, the Philippines is located in South East Asia," she wrote. "Then why do I feel so uncomfortable in my Asian skin? Especially when standing in line with my fellow 'Asian-Americans'...Maybe it's because I don't look Oriental. Maybe it's my Hispanic name...' And then it hit me. There I was standing in line at the bus station when I was asked for the nth time for directions in Spanish! My dark hair, brown skin and the 'Santos' part of my name stuck to my bag tag cried out 'paisano!' Fortunately for the person asking directions, I attended a school in Manila that taught Spanish as a major subject for 12 years...The answer to my un-Asian feeling lay in the fact that while Filipinos share geography with Asians, we share more with our 'Latino' brothers in name, food, culture, religion and history. Just think about how more at home you feel watching Telemundo than Kung Fu."

Since her epiphany, says Marcie, she has tried to reconnect to her Spanish roots and now savors the many things she shares in common with friends who trace their origins to Latin America, Mexico and other outposts of the old Spanish empire. "Like it or not, Hispanic culture flows through our veins and our lives—in our languages (and not just Chavacano), our food (just think menudo), our beliefs (just think of the Church). It's hard to erase 375 years of Spanish rule. Perhaps now is the time to embrace that part of our past, forget the scars dealt by our Spanish colonizers."

* * *

REINFORCING the cliché of the snobbish and racist *Kastila* in our midst, though, is the behavior of the owner and staff of an outlet of Mango, a chain of fashion stores based in Spain.

"Paula L." writes that she saw a dress at Mango that bore the price tag of P2,390. But when she brought the dress to the cashier for payment, the price that came out in the computer screen after scanning was P3,899. When she and her mother complained about the disparity, the clerks merely shrugged and said the latter was the real price for the dress and someone must have made a mistake with the price tags. Paula and her mother paid P3,899 in cash, but decided to check the price tags on identical dresses. They all bore the price of P2,390. They complained once more about this, and asked to see the person in charge.

A young woman came out to hear their complaints, but even as they continued to argue their point, the woman left the counter and went to the back office. Later, a "foreign looking man" charged out of the office, "pointing his finger at us and shouting, 'You pay whatever the computer says!' We reacted and tried explaining things to him and he kept on shouting, 'You get out of my store!'" He also accused them of "shouting" at his daughter, even if the young woman and the salesclerks all denied that Paula and her mother had raised their voices at them. "I know what I'm doing and in Spain it works this way," the man finally said dismissively. "So we just walked out of the store. We have been shopping in Mango for all the years it has been operating in the Philippines. We have shopped in all the better stores in the Philippines, but we have never been treated in such a rude and aggravating manner. I was definitely treated like I was a second-class citizen in my own country," concludes Paula.

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...?

Niño Calinao murder

ON FEB. 19, 1999, Niño Calinao, a graduating University of the Philippines journalism student, was shot five times by an unidentified man on the covered walk of the Arts and Sciences Building in Diliman, Quezon City. He was rushed to the East Avenue Medical Center but did not survive.

Calinao, 21, was active in church and was not even a member of any fraternity in school. He was seated on a bench along the AS walk in front of the Scintilla Juris fraternity's *tambayan* (hangout) when he was shot. He was with his fellow Volleyball Club members manning the registration booth for their sports quiz show.

Investigators suspected that Calinao was mistaken for a member of the Scintilla Juris which was involved in a rumble with the Sigma Rho the week before. Hurt during that scuffle was Sigma Rhoan Yasser Abbas, son of Bangsamoro leader Firdausi Abbas and a student of the UP College of Human Kinetics. Abbas' name consistently cropped up in the police investigation as one of the possible suspects and the probable mastermind of the killing.

However, the police admitted that the only piece of evidence that could link Abbas to the killing was the witnesses' accounts that he was with other identified suspects in the university days before the killing.

Charged with murder before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court on Sept. 28, 1999 were alleged triggerman Resurreccion Ranin Jr. and lookouts Rizal Sarri Lamsani, Besmart Al-Baddar Lauppah and Ommar Hadjula, all of Barangay Culiat, Quezon City. The case was raffled off to RTC Branch 219. The defense filed a petition for bail on Dec. 13, 1999.

Hadjula pleaded not guilty when arraigned on Nov. 11, 1999. The three other accused were arraigned on March 20, 2000. They also denied the allegation. On Oct. 10, 2001, the prosecution finished marking its exhibits with respect to the defense's petition for bail.

Case status: More than two years since its filing, the case has yet to be resolved. The prosecution is finding it hard to locate four of its witnesses. According to lawyer Benjamin Paggao of the prosecution, only three of the witnesses who submitted their testimonies to the National Bureau of Investigation have actually testified in court.

Those who are yet to testify are photocopier operator Shirley Claor, engineering graduate Ched Fernandez, former Church of the Risen Lord pastor Bart Maza, and Katherine Manalo, a university vendor.

All the accused are detained at the Quezon City Jail. The court has yet to issue its decision on the defense's petition for bail since both parties have not yet submitted their respective position papers on the matter.

Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department

The Spanish friar, beyond the propaganda

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

LIKE many Filipinos I harbor negative stereotype images of friars in general and Spanish friars in particular. Padre Damaso, Fray Botod and Padre Salvi are quite real to me even if they are fictional characters created by Jose Rizal and Graciano Lopez Jaena in the late 19th century. While these literary characters (caricatures?) are based on real people, they seldom resemble the few Spanish and Filipino friars I have known personally. Contrary to popular belief, Augustinians, Dominicans and Franciscans today are not generally fat, corrupt, sexually depraved, materialistic, scheming or Spaniards. How come few of us even attempt to rethink our dated ideas of friars?

Then as now there were friars who broke rules of poverty and obedience. There have been lapses in chastity. All the abuses attributed to the friars in the late 19th century were probably true, but in isolated cases. Yet, there is a tendency to generalize. If the Spanish friars were so bad, why was there a need for them to be written about in the propaganda movement? Wouldn't their deeds be well known if they were as vile as we are led to believe? If Spanish friars were as bad as they are supposed to be, how could they walk freely in the Philippines, sometimes in places where the friar was the only Spaniard in town? Even the Spanish colonial government that did not always see eye to eye with the Church, treated the friars as a necessary evil. For example, one official was quoted as saying, "It is more important for the preservation of the colony to send 200 religious than 2,000 bayonets."

This is not a pro-friar column, I just feel that the friars are just one of many things in our history that need revision due to experience and research. Strictly speaking, a friar is a member of certain religious orders of men. In the colonial Philippines we had Augustinians (including Augustinian Recollects), Dominicans and Franciscans. Jesuits are NOT friars. Neither are monks of a contemplative or semi-contemplative kind: Benedictines, Cistercians, Carthusians, etc. Textbooks make the distinction between a "regular" and a "secular" priest. The former is a member of a religious order, bound to a religious "rule" of life (*regula* in Latin, *regla* in Spanish), the latter is not bound by a rule. Today this definition is further diluted because in common usage secular means something that is neither religious, regular or even ecclesiastical. These fine distinctions are not made in the anti-friar propaganda of the late 19th century leading to a clouded vision today.

In 1898 there were an estimated 1,180 regulars in the Philippines, about 439 (depending on the source used) were prisoners of the Malolos government. Twenty-five of these 439 died in captivity. In the light of the total Spanish prisoners held by the Aguinaldo government, that is barely 5 percent yet the friar prisoners are most prominent and, depending on who was in charge of them, were treated in extremes—too good such that some lay prisoners gave themselves a tonsure to get good treatment, on the other hand there were isolated cases of verbal abuse, torture and even execution.

Even in captivity friars were treated differently. Telesforo Canseco, reacting to the move for the expulsion of the friars in San Francisco de Malabon (now General Trias), quotes someone as saying "*Cung umalis and mga pareng Castila, sinong matitirang pari? Ang mga Tagalog? Cung ganoon ay caramihan natin ay maguiguing judio* (If the Spanish priests leave, who will be left? Tagalogs? That being the case, many people will become Jews)." Naturally, Canseco is biased, but what do we make of the letters exchanged between Aguinaldo and Fray Tomas Espejo, a Dominican in Pateros? Aguinaldo in a reply to Fray Tomas dated Jan. 8, 1897, that is nine days after Jose Rizal's execution, says among other things:

"...Every time I remember your great goodness of heart, I have raised my eyes to God and I have always said that if all the Spaniards were like you, there would never have been or ever would be an insurrection. It should be clear, Reverend Father, that this option has been caused in me by the repeated abuses, insults and machinations of your compatriots who desire to do us harm. If this had not been the case there would have been no rebellion."

I am rather surprised to read the above words by Aguinaldo, but it made me go over the literature again and rethink my position. The problem with friars is that they were Spanish and thus integral to Spanish colonization. Racism has a lot to do with the way we see friars today and its roots go way back to the 18th century in a failed attempt to turn over the Philippine parishes from the Spanish regulars to hastily trained Filipino seculars. Accepting that the friars were Spaniards first and religious second, makes us understand why many of them resisted the Filipinos' legitimate call for reforms and eventual separation from Spain.

To know is to understand. Now that I have outgrown the anti-friar propaganda of Rizal, Del Pilar, Lopez-Jaena et al. and visited colonial churches around the country, I am beginning to separate fact from fiction. To understand the Spanish friar is to see Philippine history and ourselves in a different light.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Real problem today is ethical, not economic

I WAS with a brilliant political leader the other night. He had often been a lone voice opposing the subterfuges of powerful politicians and their economic backers. He reminded me so much of the late Sen. Jose W. Diokno who never aspired for the presidency so that he would have more freedom in pursuing his libertarian goals.

I told this maverick politician he is above all the others but I hope, for the sake of the nation, he will not aspire for the presidency.

I had his best interest and ours in mind. All Filipinos of sterling character should not miss the chance of running for president, to prove as did Abraham Lincoln, that one born in a log cabin could be president, just as in this supposedly democratic country, anyone born in a nipa hut can be in Malacañang.

It goes without saying that all politicians do make compromises but usually, they are of such nature that they do not impact fully on the national well being.

But when a politician aspires for the presidency, he will have to make those compromises—very major ones—that will gain him political capital but will result in the loss not only of his integrity, but more important, in sacrificing the public good to serve narrow even personal, interests.

This is precisely what all men of goodwill must avoid in their quest for public office. We know very well that at a certain level of power, high officials do not even have to leave their offices to search for loot—it will come to them because their signatures, their approval, their patronage are needed. In this high office, therefore, it is important that its holder is a man of integrity, of courage as well. And most important of all, of superior moral strength, for our very real problem today is not economic—it is ethical.

Unfortunately for us Filipinos, we don't know how to cap our egos, how to understand that there is something much bigger than ourselves, or our ambition—and that is the welfare of our country.

Ego distorts an individual's self esteem—thus, basketball players, TV personalities, movie actors who have no background in government or the mental capacity to lead aim for the highest position in the land for no other reason than ego. It is for this reason why so many dullards are given so much authority by the people themselves who are just as ill-informed. We know what happens next.

The intelligent man knows his capacities, the job he can perform best in the light of his self-knowledge.

And this political leader I spoke to surely knows that he is above so many of the aspiring politicians who want to be president. But we need him to speak the truth, to put sense and integrity in government, and most of all, to uphold moral standards in the conduct of public affairs so that, as he said, the government—meaning the people—will not be on the losing end.

If he will not run for the presidency, he will not have to compromise; he will hold the high moral ground in any argument and he will be the voice—the very real voice—of the people. He will then be the true leader of this country, not the man in Malacañang who got there by compromise and wheeling and dealing.

—F SIONIL JOSE,
Solidaridad Publishing House,
531 Padre Faura St., Ermita,
Manila

Beheading scenes edited or blurred out

I WRITE to clarify certain points in the news article which appeared in the Feb. 20 issue of the INQUIRER, titled "Real face of the enemy," regarding the airing of footage showing Abu Sayyaf members beheading captured soldiers.

GMA News and Public Affairs first got hold of a copy of the footage not from Malacañang but from our own news sources. From the first time it was shown on "Saksi" last Feb. 18, shots of the actual beheading were either edited or blurred out. The edited report was viewed and carefully assessed repeatedly before being aired. The resulting report, I believe, still captured the essence of the story.

We have also decided to refrain from using the blurred-out video of the beheading starting Wednesday evening (Feb. 20) on "Front Page," and in all of our news and public affairs programs.

GMA News and Public Affairs is committed to observe the highest ethical standards especially in the treatment of sensitive stories.

—MARISSA FLORES, vice president, GMA News and Public Affairs, GMA Network Center, Edsa corner Timog Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

LETTERS

Anti-kidnapping units unified

LET me clarify facts on the decision of the Philippine National Police to place all its anti-kidnapping forces under one unified command.

At present, there are in effect, two anti-kidnapping units in the PNP alone, not to mention those of other law enforcement agencies. As already reported, I called for a meeting with PNP Director General Leandro R. Mendoza and Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. for the purpose of further improving our anti-kidnapping campaign. In that meeting, contrary to some reports, it was Mendoza himself who brought the idea of unifying all anti-kidnapping units of the PNP in command under Ebdane. Likewise, Ebdane volunteered to report directly to the PNP chief on his activities as head of the unified PNP anti-kidnapping unit.

Let me also emphasize that Ebdane will remain as head of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) of the National Anti-Crime Commission, whose primary function is to coordinate all anti-kidnapping activities of the PNP and other law enforcement agencies.

I believe that under the unified command scheme, the PNP will be able to maximize its resources and improve its capability in the fight against kidnapping in the country.

—JOSE D. LINA JR., secretary, Department of Interior and Local Government, A. Francisco Gold Condominium II, Edsa cor. Mapagmahal Street, Diliman, Quezon City

Tales that warm the heart in Baguio

RECENTLY, I have noticed that stories about us Filipinos tend to center on poverty and our difficulty in eking out a living. Oftentimes, the positive side of the Filipino such as his warmth, kindness, compassion and even heroism are overlooked. Since I feel that there is a need to highlight the positive things in our day-to-day life, let me share with your readers recent incidents that convinced me that, in the end, "*sa Pinoy pa rin ako*."

A few weeks ago, some of the office staff of Larrgo Securities, Arbies Marketing and M. Laurel decided to go to Baguio for a weekend break. However, an unfortunate incident happened when one of the girls, Liza, got pocket picked while browsing through the market stalls. Liza immediately shouted for help together with her companion, Bibet.

Unexpectedly, the other marketgoers, the vendors and onlookers immediately formed a cohesive team. Through their spontaneous act, they were able to apprehend the pickpocket and recover the stolen wallet in a matter of minutes.

The other incident happened to another staff member, Imelda, who was buying strawberries near Burnham Park. After the usual haggling, a policeman told the vendor in Ilokano to give Imelda the right weight, not knowing that the customer was from La Union. After paying, Imelda smiled and thanked both of them in fluent Ilokano.

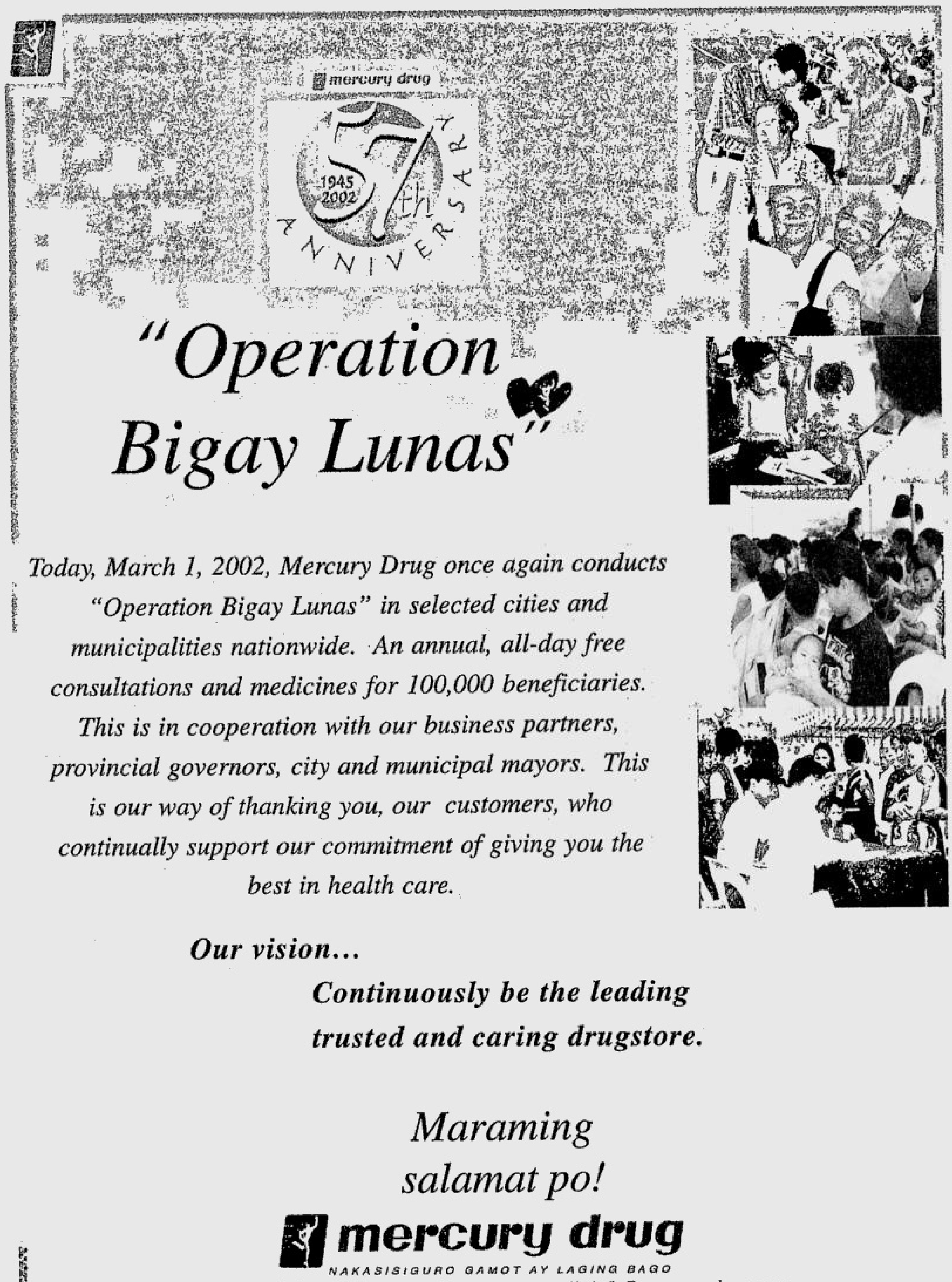
The vacationists came back from Baguio refreshed and happy not only because their trip was enjoyable but memorable as well. What were supposed to be unfortunate incidents turned out to highlight the truth that there is still a positive side to the Filipino.

I do hope that your readers will be encouraged with this story and that the INQUIRER would regularly feature incidents that depict warmth, fortitude, humor or any slice of life with human interest involving us Filipinos. Hopefully, we can all work to enhance the Filipino image.

—MANUEL TANJANGCO,
Rufino Bldg., Ayala Avenue,
Makati City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.



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February 22, 2002

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

CONTRACTS:

1)	Sp2002D1Lc316	Construction of Protection Structure for Tower 162 of Bauang-San Esteban 320 KV T/L at Brgy. Sagat, Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur
2)	Sp2002D1Lc317	Construction of Perimeter Fence at Bacnotan Substation, Bacnotan, La Union
3)	Sp2002D2Lc318	Construction of Slope Protection for Tower 28 of La Trinidad-Binga 230 KV Transmission Line at La Trinidad, Benguet
4)	Sp2002D3Lc319	Construction of Protection Structure for Tower No. 148 Along Kadampat-San Manuel 500 KV Transmission Line at Brgy Sumabnet, Binalonan, Pangasinan
5)	Sp2002D3Lc320	Construction of Protection Structure for Tower No. 362 Along San Manuel-San Jose 500 KV Transmission Line at Brgy. Binagbag, Angat, Bulacan
6)	Sp2002D3Lc321	Construction of Protection Structure for Tower No. 368 Along San Manuel-San Jose 500 KV Transmission Line at Brgy. San Roque, Angat, Bulacan
7)	Sp2002 D5Lc322	Construction of Protection Structure for Tower No. 154 Along Olongapo-Botolan 230 KV Transmission Line at Botolan, Zambales
8)	Sp2002 D7Lc323	Construction of Slope Protection for Tower No. 52 of Dolores-San Jose 230 KV Transmission Line at Sitio Wawa, San Rafael, Rodriguez, Rizal
9)	Sp2002D7Lc324	Slope Protection Works for Tower No. 10 of Dolores-San Jose 230 KV Transmission Line at Daang Bakal, Antipolo, Rizal

The Contracts to be performed are:

Sp2002D1Lc316	Excavation Works, Mattress & Gabion Works, Rockfilling Works, Backfilling Works, Compaction
Sp2002D1Lc317	Move-in/Staking/Clearing, Foundation Excavation Fill & Backfill, Masonry Works, Concrete Works, Installation of Barbed Wire
Sp2002D2Lc318	Site Preparation/Clearing/Clear Grub, Structural Excavation, Installation of Grouted Rockwall/Grosted Canal, Grading Fill
Sp2002D3Lc319	Lay-out & Structural Excavation, Laying of Gabions, Boulders & Filter Fabric, Construction of Spur Dike, Structural Backfill
Sp2002D3Lc320	Lay-out/Clearing & Grubbing, Structure Excavation, Laying of Gabions, Boulders & Filter Fabric, Construction of Stone Masonry Canal, Structural Backfill
Sp2002D3Lc321	Lay-out/Clearing & Grubbing, Structure Excavation, Laying of Gabions & Boulders, Construction of Spur Dike, Structural Backfill
Sp2002 D5Lc322	Lay-out and Structural Excavation, Hauling of Armour Rocks, Installation of Armour Rocks, Hauling and Installation of Boulders, Backfilling
Sp2002 D7Lc323	Preparation & Lay-out of Site, Structural Excavation, Hauling of Materials, Installation of Stone Masonry Wall, Installation of Weepholes
Sp2002D7Lc324	Site Preparation/Clearing, Hauling of Materials, Structural Excavation, Construction of Grouted Rockwall/Canal/Toppings, Grading Fill

The Budget for the Contracts to be Bid and contract duration are as follows:

Contract Code	Budget for the Contract to be Bid	Contract Duration
Lc316	One Million Four Hundred Eight-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Three Pesos & 87/100 (P1,482,873.87)	Forty-Two (42) calendar days
Lc317	One Million Nineteen Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Two Pesos & 02/100 (P1,019,722.02)	Seventy-Eight (78) calendar days
Lc318	One Million Sixty-Six Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-Two Pesos & 93/100 (P1,066,782.93)	Forty-Two (42) calendar days
Lc319	One Million Eight Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand One Hundred Thirty-One Pesos & 55/100 (P1,876,131.55)	Seventy-Eight (78) calendar days
Lc320	One Million Seven Hundred Four Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-Two Pesos & 06/100 (P1,704,332.06)	Eighty (80) calendar days
Lc321	Six Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-One Pesos & 28/100 (P655,231.28)	Fifty-Four (54) calendar days
Lc322	One Million Four Hundred Fifteen Thousand Ninety-Three Pesos & 68/100 (P1,415,093.68)	Fifty-Four (54) calendar days
Lc 323	Three Hundred Eighty Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Pesos & 39/100 (P380,650.39)	Forty (40) calendar days
Lc324	One Million Six Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand Three Hundred Ninety-Four Pesos & 46/100 (P1,677,394.46)	One Hundred Thirteen (113) calendar days

Source of Funds is thru Internal Cash Generation.

Application Particulars for Eligibility is open to Filipino Contractors with the following valid License and Registration Particulars issued by PCAB:

Contract Code	License	Registration
Lc316	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc317	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc318	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc319	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc320	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc321	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc322	At Least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc323	At least "Trade" - General Engineering	At least Small A - Roads & Highways
Lc324	At Least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways

PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations as amended dated May 24, 2000 and July 5, 2000 shall be applied to these contracts to be bid.

Only the Licensee can apply for Eligibility and participate in the bidding of the above projects. Except for Corporation or Joint Venture, Special Power of Attorney (Specific or General) shall not be honored.

Applications for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statements0 shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by NPC in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the approved Budget for the Contracts to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding, and shall be subject to Post qualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.

Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance from **March 1 to March 22, 2002** at the ***Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO), National Power Corporation, Northern Luzon Regional Center, 2nd Basement, Plaza Natalia Building, 51 Naguilian Road, Baguio City, Telefax No. (074) 445-4546*** upon presentation of Letter of Intent, Original PCAB License, submission of a photocopy thereof to the above office and a payment of non-refundable fee of Six Hundred Pesos (P600.00) per copy.

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Eligibility Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before **April 5, 2002 up to 5:00 P.M. only (official time is RCMO's clock)** and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is non-working day or declared a non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.

NPC reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned **c/o Mr. Jaime G. Mateo, Section Chief, Regional Contracts Management Office** at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) CONRADO B. MARAMAG
Chairman
Regional Contracts Committee
North Luzon Transco

(PDI – Mar. 1 & 6, 2002)

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Violence erupts despite Mideast peace overture

NABLUS, West Bank—Israeli troops killed a Palestinian gunman in clashes on Thursday and Israeli tanks rumbled into a West Bank town after a Palestinian suicide bombing that lent urgency to a Saudi peace initiative.

Despite optimism raised by the land-for-peace proposal made by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah, Saudi Arabia's UN ambassador slammed Israel in a speech at the United Nations which underlined the difficulties advancing the initiative.

The clashes in the northern West Bank city of Nablus highlighted the danger of new bloodshed derailing the Saudi proposal for ending 17 months of Israeli-Palestinian violence, which the Crown Prince says could win wide Arab support.

Hours after European Union envoy Javier Solana discussed the peace effort with the Crown Prince in Saudi Arabia, a Palestinian woman blew herself up at a West Bank checkpoint on Wednesday, injuring three Israeli policemen.

The woman detonated explosives strapped to her body after a policeman asked her to get out of her car when she failed to present identity papers at a checkpoint just inside the West Bank and near the central Israeli town of Modi'in.

Israel Radio said two Palestinian men in the car were killed either from the blast or from bullets fired by soldiers after the explosion. The deaths could not immediately be confirmed, but police said earlier they were in a critical condition.

Several hours later, Israeli tanks entered the northern and southern outskirts of the Palestinian-ruled town of Jenin in the northern West Bank in a pre-dawn raid, Palestinian security sources and witnesses said.

Five Palestinian police officers were killed in exchanges of gunfire with Israeli forces, a Palestinian security source said.

The source said around 10 armored Israeli vehicles had advanced five hundred meters toward the Jenin refugee camp. Israeli military radio said Israeli forces surrounding the camp were searching for people on their wanted list.

The dead men were named as Abdallah Saaban, Mohammed Sayed, Mahmud el Haj, Samih el Arda and Osama Jadallah.

Troops shot dead a Palestinian gunman at the Balata refugee camp on the edge of Nablus, also in the northern West Bank, during clashes which involved tank shelling and helicopter gunships firing two missiles, Palestinian hospital sources said.

The Army did not comment on the raid or the violence, which took the death toll to at least 897 Palestinians and 279 Israelis killed since a Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation began in September 2000 after peace talks stalled.

Crown Prince Abdullah's initiative gained momentum when he told Solana on Wednesday he expected other Arab leaders to adopt his ideas at an Arab League summit in Beirut in March.

Hailed by Palestinians and cautiously welcomed in Israel, the proposal has won wide backing, including in Washington. *Reuters, AFP*

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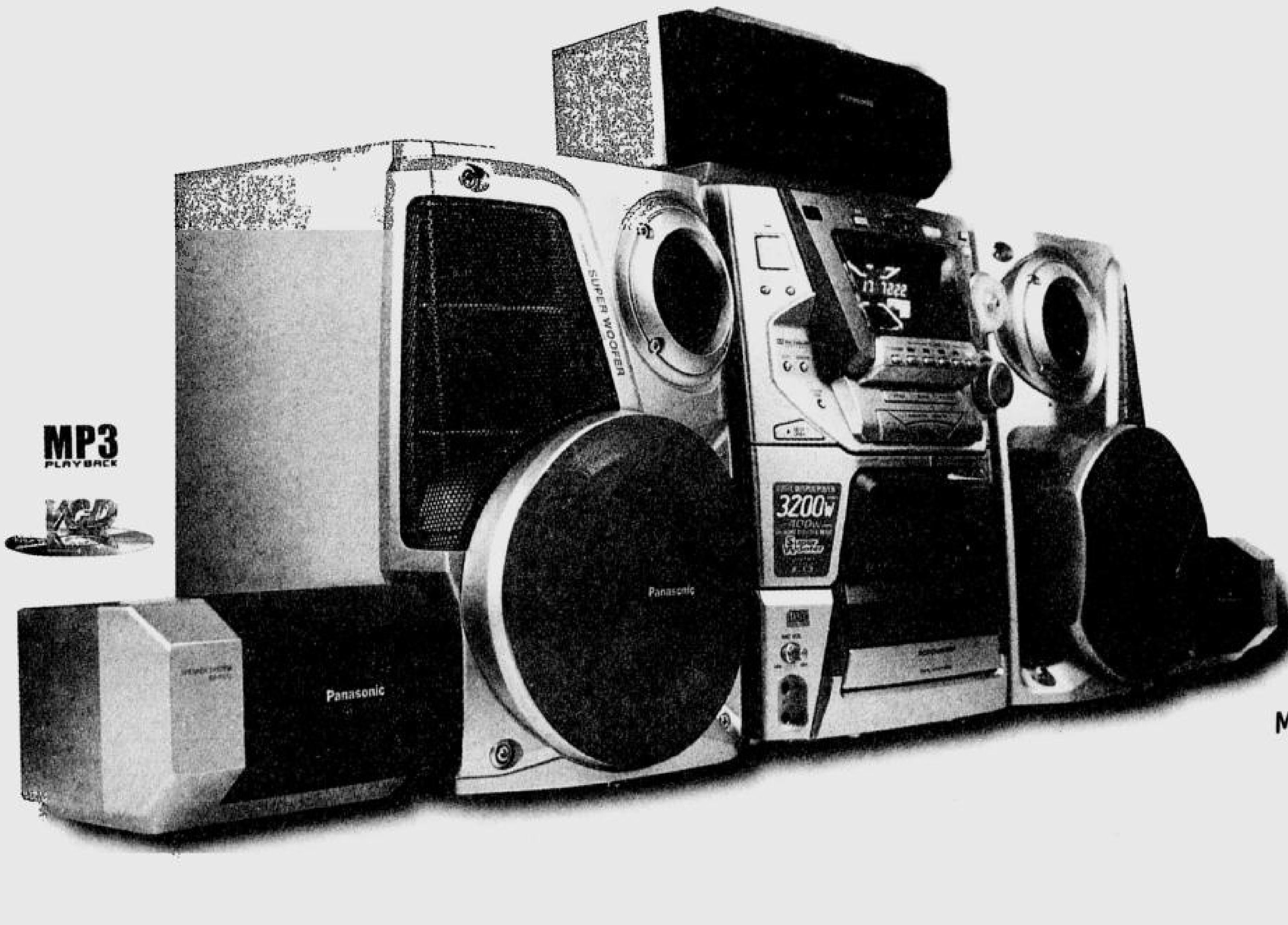

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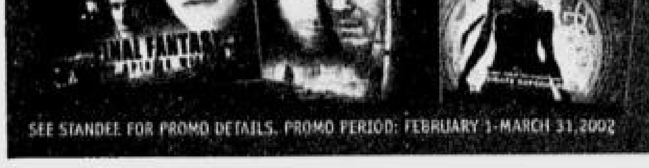

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Hindus, Muslims clash after train massacre

AHMEDABAD, India—Violence erupted in this western Indian city Thursday as the government and security forces tried to contain sectarian tensions after a train massacre of Hindu activists.

Police used gunfire and tear gas to control hundreds of Hindus targeting Muslim-owned shops in revenge for Wednesday's attack by a Muslim mob on the train, which left 58 people dead, witnesses said.

Police fired over the heads of the crowds as they threw stones, tried to break into shops and loot them or set them on fire.

Another crowd of Hindu youths attacked a mosque in Ahmedabad, sparking a running street battle with police and Muslim residents.

Up to 100 young Hindus pelted the mosque in a Muslim-dominated residential area of the city with stones, bricks and glass bottles.

Police arrived quickly on the scene and managed to disperse the crowd, which then regrouped and renewed its assault as local Muslims came out of their houses and tried to beat the assailants back.

The Hindus also managed to start small fires in two residential buildings adjoining the mosque.

There were scattered clashes in Gujarat state overnight, with numerous stabbing incidents in which one person died.

Several buses were burned in Ahmedabad and another passenger train was pelted with stones.

Around 6,000 police have been deployed on the streets of Ahmedabad.

"We are expecting repercussions following Wednesday's train incident and are fully geared up to control the situation," the city's assistant commissioner of police, M.T. Mehta, said.

The train was attacked just outside the town of Godhra, a Muslim-dominated area in the western state of Gujarat, 160 km east of Ahmedabad.

It was carrying Hindu activists who were returning from the town of Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh state, where thousands of Hindus have been gathering in defiance of court orders to build a temple on the ruins of a 16th-century mosque razed by Hindu zealots in 1992.

According to police and eyewitnesses, when the train had stopped at Godhra station, there was an altercation between locals and the passengers who were chanting Hindu slogans.

AFP

SMOKE pours from the carriage of a train on fire in Godhra, in the western Indian state of Gujarat, Feb. 27. Fifty-eight people died on Wednesday after a train carrying Hindu activists from the controversial site of a razed mosque was set on fire in western India, officials said. REUTERS

US offers $5-M reward for info on Pearl killers

WASHINGTON—The State department announced Wednesday a $5-million reward for information leading to the arrest or conviction of those responsible for Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl's kidnapping and murder.

State department spokesperson Richard Boucher said the reward would be advertised in Pakistan in the near future.

With the suspected mastermind of Pearl's kidnapping in custody, Pakistani officials are still searching for at least four key suspects. The main target is now Amjad Faruqi, who police believe carried out the abduction and held the American.

The moves came amid indications Pakistan has agreed in principle to hand over Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, who confessed in court to planning the kidnapping, to the United States.

A high-ranking Pakistani diplomat said Wednesday that the government has "no objections" to giving Saeed to the United States once certain legal issues are resolved.

AP

US seeks DNA samples from Bin Laden kin

WASHINGTON—The United States is seeking DNA samples from relatives of Osama bin Laden that could be used to determine whether he was among three people killed in a CIA missile strike in eastern Afghanistan, a senior defense official said Wednesday.

"Efforts are underway to get DNA samples," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official said Saudi Arabia had been asked to seek the DNA samples from members of Bin Laden's family, a well known and wealthy clan with close ties to the Saudi royal family.

It was unclear when the request had been made or whether the family had responded positively.

The official said the effort to obtain DNA samples that could be matched with Bin Laden's got under way in earnest a few weeks ago, around the time of a Feb. 4 missile strike that US officials believe killed an as yet unidentified al-Qaida leader.

Pieces of flesh and bones of three men killed in the strike the near Zhawar Kili in eastern Afghanistan were collected by US troops and flown back to the United States for DNA analysis.

"As of this morning, we had not gotten a report back on the remains that went to the lab," the official said.

By comparing DNA taken from the remains with samples from either Bin Laden's offspring or a direct maternal relative, investigators could either positively identify or rule out Bin Laden, the suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the US, as one of the men killed in the missile strike.

A CIA-operated Predator drone fired a Hellfire missile at the man as he met with two others in a mountainous, cave riddled area that had once been a premier al-Qaida training ground.

Villagers are reported to have said the three were not al-Qaida at all, but local men who were foraging for scrap metal in area that had been heavily bombed by US forces.

US officials have emphatically disputed those claims, saying the three had been under surveillance for some time, that they were dressed in robes and fit the profile of al-Qaida terrorists who were on the run.

The man targeted in the strike was unusually tall and was being treated with great deference by the others, according to US officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

AFP

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Illegals in Malaysia flee to escape swoop

KUALA LUMPUR—Thousands of illegal immigrants from Indonesia and the Philippines fled their homes Thursday to escape a major crackdown in eastern Malaysia aimed at deporting them and rooting out any armed militants seeking refuge in their settlements.

The massive police and Army operation, launched Tuesday, has resulted in 3,614 arrests and the bulldozing of more than 600 houses in Sabah, the state on the Malaysian-rule portion of Borneo island that lies closest to the southern Philippines, officials said.

"We know many of the illegals are abandoning their homes and seeking refuge with friends elsewhere in the state," Hamdan Mohamad, police chief in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah's capital, said.

"They are cornered," Hamdan said. "We will track them down, as this operation will continue indefinitely."

A 19-month-old girl of Filipino descent drowned on Gaya island, where thousands of immigrants live in dilapidated shacks, about two hours before security forces moved in Wednesday, Hamdan said. The parents had valid papers and her death was unconnected to the operation, Hamdan said.

Nearly 4,000 policemen, soldiers and other officials are involved in the effort to screen an estimated 600,000 immigrants, the biggest roundup in years. Any immigrant who returns after being deported is threatened with a whipping.

The crackdown is part of a campaign to reduce the number of migrant workers following a riot by Indonesians at a textile factory last month and the arrest of Islamic militants suspected of plotting terrorism.

None of the detainees has been identified by officials as belonging to a militant group, but Sabah has been a hiding place in the past for Muslim separatists from the southern Philippines.

Thousands of Filipinos have lived in Sabah for decades after fleeing a long Muslim separatist insurgency in Mindanao province. A lesser number of Indonesians seeking to escape poverty back home also live in Sabah.

AP

Senator: How long must US stay in Afghanistan?

WASHINGTON—The senior Democrat in the Senate pressed Pentagon officials Wednesday for details on how long US troops might stay in Afghanistan, complaining "there's no end in sight in our mission."

The remarks from Sen. Robert C. Byrd, who chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee, were among the harshest in Congress yet about the anti-terrorism campaign, which the Pentagon estimates will cost $30 billion this year. Byrd's committee controls spending legislation, and at a subcommittee hearing Byrd took the opportunity to grill the No. 2 defense department official about the war's costs.

"Instead of concentrating on completing our operations in Afghanistan, the Pentagon seems to be looking for opportunities to stay longer and expand our presence in the region," Byrd told Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz. "We seem to be good at developing entrance strategies but not on developing exit strategies. . . There's no end in sight in our mission in Afghanistan."

Wolfowitz said the Pentagon has no clear view of how long US troops should remain in Afghanistan or how much the operation might eventually cost. That's because "things change and they change rapidly," Wolfowitz said.

"Everything has gone in ways that are unpredictable," Wolfowitz said.

The US military spent $7.4 billion from Sept. 11 through the end of January on the war in Afghanistan and domestic security functions such as air patrols over American cities, Wolfowitz told Byrd. "Roughly $6 billion" of that was for the Afghanistan war.

The $30 billion estimate for terror war spending this year is just a guess, based on the assumption that operations will continue at their present rate, Wolfowitz said.

Under questioning from Byrd, Wolfowitz said the Pentagon had no estimate of how much it would cost to help train and equip an Afghan Army. President George W. Bush has pledged to do so, but Wolfowitz said defense department officials have not decided on details.

AP

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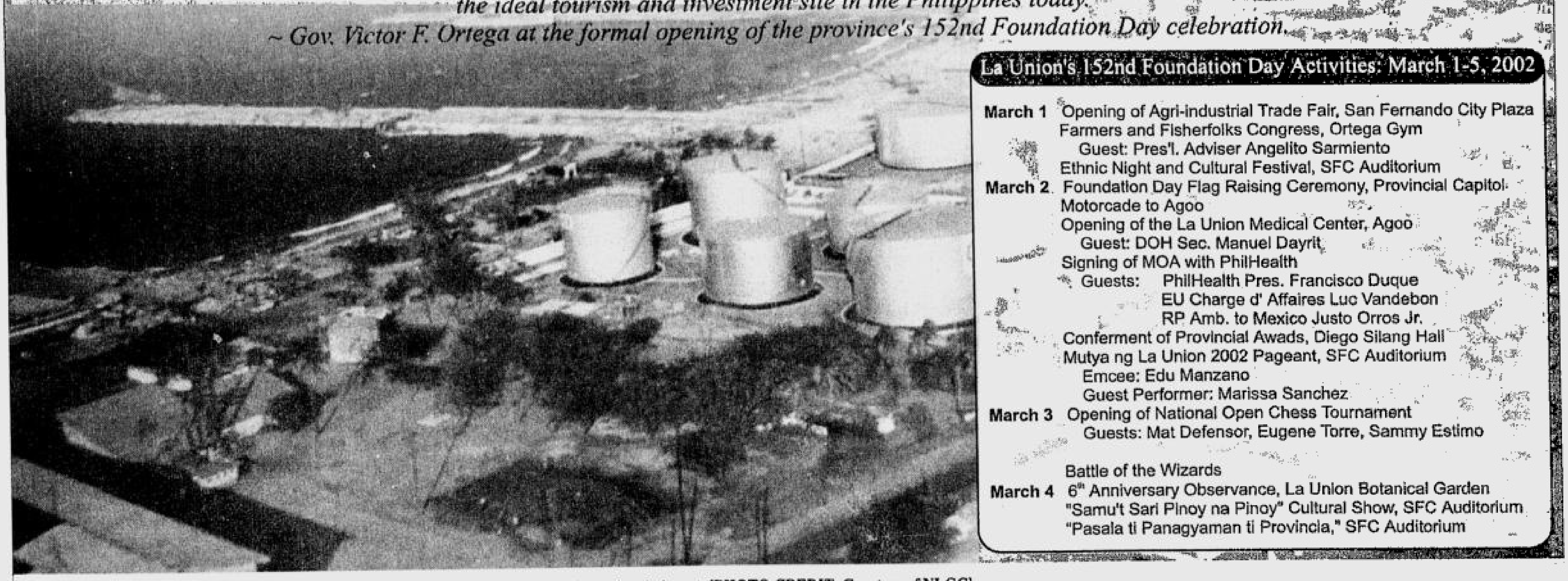
"Excellent peace and order situation, political stability, sufficient infrastructure, and educated manpower are what make La Union the ideal tourism and investment site in the Philippines today."
~ Gov. Victor F. Ortega at the formal opening of the province's 152nd Foundation Day celebration.



The Port of San Fernando, a national port of entry, is only one kilometer away from the regional airport. [PHOTO CREDIT: Courtesy of NLGC]

La Union's 152nd Foundation Day Activities: March 1-5, 2002

March 1 Opening of Agri-industrial Trade Fair, San Fernando City Plaza
Farmers and Fisherfolks Congress, Ortega Gym
Guest: Pres'l. Adviser Angelito Sarmiento
Ethnic Night and Cultural Festival, SFC Auditorium
March 2 Foundation Day Flag Raising Ceremony, Provincial Capitol
Motorcade to Agoo
Opening of the La Union Medical Center, Agoo
Guest: DOH Sec. Manuel Dayrit
Signing of MOA with PhilHealth
Guests: PhilHealth Pres. Francisco Duque
EU Charge d' Affaires Luc Vandebon
RP Amb. to Mexico Justo Orros Jr.
Conferment of Provincial Awads, Diego Silang Hall
Mutya ng La Union 2002 Pageant, SFC Auditorium
Emcee: Edu Manzano
Guest Performer: Marissa Sanchez
March 3 Opening of National Open Chess Tournament
Guests: Mat Defensor, Eugene Torre, Sammy Estimo

Battle of the Wizards
March 4 6th Anniversary Observance, La Union Botanical Garden
"Samu't Sari Pinoy na Pinoy" Cultural Show, SFC Auditorium
"Pasala ti Panagyaman ti Provincia," SFC Auditorium

La Union hosts 2003 "Treasures of the North" fair

SAN FERNANDO CITY
The Poro Point Special Economic and Freeport Zone (PPSEFPZ) here will be the site of the first "Rimat ti Amianan (Treasures of the North)" Agricultural, Trade and Tourism Fair in December in 2003.

"The trade fair will open doors to the area of Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Abra and Benguet as a primary investment and tourist destination," according to La Union governor Victor F. Ortega.

"It will showcase the many business opportunities we can offer to prospective investors in terms of support services and facilities. It will also demonstrate the creative flair of our craftsmen and the variety and quality of our agricultural products for promotion in the domestic and international markets," he added.

The two-week affair will feature a product exposition, a tourist and travel mart, an agri-industrial technology fair and a food festival. There will also be cultural shows, aquatic sports activities, street dancing and day-to-night family fun at the specially constructed amusement park.

Also in focus will be the province's prime investment areas - the PPSEFPZ and the 250-hectare Bacnotan Regional Agri-Industrial Growth Center, where the giant Union Cement Corporation is currently located, he added.

The PPSEFPZ, now managed by the John Hay-Poro Point Development Corporation (JPDC), is intended for development as a light industrial-commercial and tourism estate. The Bacnotan area, on the other hand, is envisioned as a prime agri-industrial estate and the regional center for raw materials and markets, according to the North Luzon Growth (NLG) Area master plan.

"San Fernando is ripe to host the trade fair because it has always been the government, educational, trade and business hub of the Ilocos Region. Aside from that, La Union can boast of being one of the most peaceful provinces in the country, as recognized by our own Philippine National Police," Ortega said.

The province is host to more than a dozen higher education institutions, including many Information Technology-oriented schools, and has one of the highest literacy rates in the country at 98 percent.

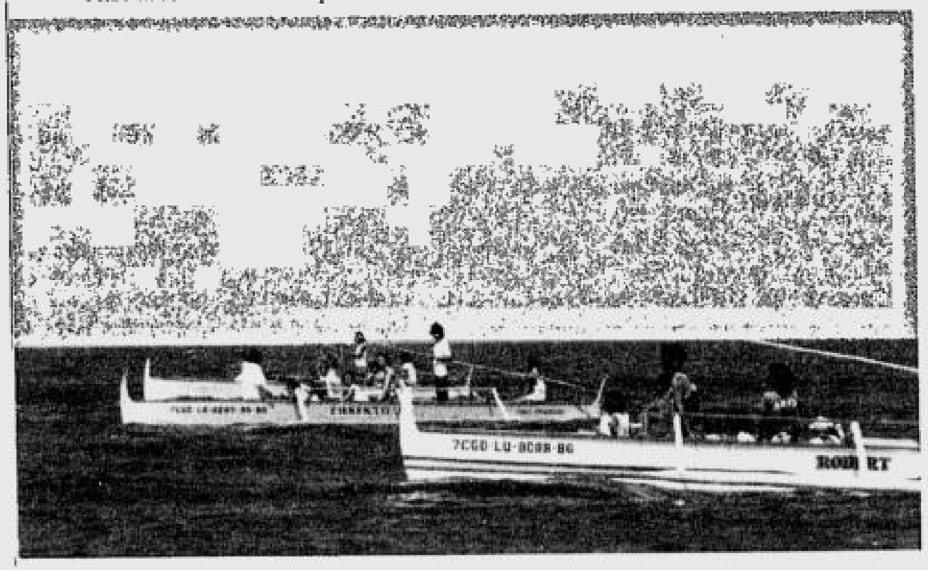
Also invigorating the business climate are 40 commercial and rural banks, and more than 14,000 trading, manufacturing and services establishments all over the province, including the 215 MW-capacity diesel power plant, Bauang Private Power Corporation.

"It also carries two vital trade infrastructure - the San Fernando Airport and Seaport which are conveniently located barely one kilometer away from each other," Ortega pointed out.

The Port of San Fernando, a national port of entry, caters to both national and international shipping activities, while the regional San Fernando Airport serves as an alternate landing area of Baguio City-bound planes.

The 2003 Rimat ti Amianan is being organized by a committee co-chaired by NLG Commission executive director Hermenegildo C. Dumlao and San Fernando City mayor Mary Jane C. Ortega, with heads of various LGUs, government agencies and private organizations as members.

Organizers have also invited partner-cities of San Fernando - Hezhou in the Province of Guanxi, China; the Township of Langley, British Columbia, Canada; Ansan, South Korea; and possibly the city of Xiamen in Fujian Province, China - to participate in the exhibit.



The Botanical Garden is the centerpiece of the city's continuing efforts in upgrading its parks and other green areas. [PHOTO CREDIT: City Media Bureau]

An Ideal Holy Week destination

La Union is the ideal destination for that long-put-off family getaway during Holy Week, a time of worship, fellowship and introspection.

Being the narrowest point in the Ilocos Region, mountains literally meet the sea here, allowing an exciting variety of activities and terrains in one place. La Union is also the gateway to the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of the Ilocano people, which becomes even more pronounced during the holy season.

The capital city of San Fernando lies 270 kilometers from Manila and is the transit point of buses plying the Manila-Laoag City route. It is only about one hour away by car from Baguio City, two hours away from the Spanish-influenced attractions of Vigan (Ilocos Sur), and three hours to the old churches of Paoay (Ilocos Norte).

From Agoo, stretching northward to San Juan, the coastline is dotted with numerous hotels and resorts offering amenities and facilities ranging from economy to de luxe. The restaurants, whether by the beach or in downtown San Fernando, boast fresh seafood and a variety of local and international cuisine.

Paringao, Bauang is known for its wide, gray-sand beaches and calm waters while Urbiztondo, San Juan is internationally famous for its friendly surfing waves all year round. Poro Point, San Fernando and the Bauang Reef are good spots for snorkeling and diving, lessons for which can be arranged at some hotels.

Bagulin, where La Union's highest peak is found at 1,113 m. asl., is frequented by trekkers and mountain bikers. Nestled atop a mountain, about seven kilometers from the San Fernando City proper, is the famous La Union Botanical Garden.

Here, nature lovers would enjoy walking through the lush gardens inspired by different countries and climate zones, as well as the mini-zoo, natural museum, and picnic grounds.

A pilgrimage tour in La Union should begin with a visit to the Pindangan Ruins, original site of the Parish Church of San Fernando built around 1760, beside which now stands the new Pindangan Church and the Carmelite Monastery.

Other places of worship are the Basilica of Our Lady of Charity in Agoo, which also houses a museum, and the shrine of the miraculous Lady of Namacpacan in Luna.

Many Filipino-Chinese also venerate the image of Ma-zu enshrined at the Ma-cho Temple in San Fernando City. The image is believed to have a Christian counterpart known as the Virgin of Caysasay, which is found at the Basilica of St. Martin in Taal, Batangas.

The Cathedral of St. William the Hermit in San Fernando City, aside from being the biggest in La Union, also houses archaeological artifacts and historical documents.

La Union's many Catholic churches come to life as Easter Sunday draws near. On Black Saturday, a procession of flower-bedecked floats carrying ornately dressed statues of Jesus Christ, the Blessed Mother, and other saints is a spectacular sight on the main road of nearly every town.

In Agoo and San Fernando City, some centuries-old statues, often heirloom items, are brought out by their owners especially for this annual procession.

San Fernando is World Bank Dev't Strategies Pilot

The four-year-old city of San Fernando is steadily emerging as a sustainable city that is livable, competitive, bankable and with good governance thanks to the World Bank-assisted City Development Strategy (CDS), which was piloted in this city.

In 1998, barely three months after its ratification as a city, San Fernando was one of seven cities which eagerly responded to a World Bank invitation to compete for a technical assistance grant to develop a CDS.

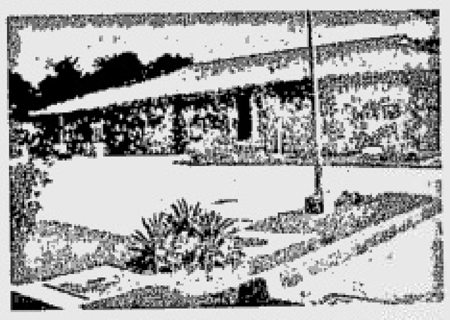
Twenty four cities in the Philippines were invited but only San Fernando, Olongapo, Dapitan, Roxas, Lapulapu, Sagay, and Dipolog responded. The seven eventually received the technical assistance, with funding from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

According to Mayor Mary Jane C. Ortega, the CDS is both a planning process and a product which promotes partnership among the various stakeholders in a city - the city government, the private business sector, civil society, academe and national government agencies.

It aims to jointly analyze growth issues, develop a vision for the future, formulate development strategies, design programs, prioritize projects, mobilize resources, implement, monitor and evaluate implementation over a five-year period.

"San Fernando has so far met all its targets in its CDS and is now considered a resource city for the second generation CDS," Ortega said.

The program's second generation currently has 33 additional cities as beneficiaries of assistance from the Cities Alliance and the G-20 countries, she said.



The P650M La Union Med. Clinic, a gift of the European Union to the province & the most modern gov't hospital in the city. Start serving the public on March 2, 2002

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Hon. Victor F. Ortega, Governor
Hon. Augusto Aureo Q. Nisce, Vice-Governor

Agoo - site of the Basilica Minore of Our Lady of Charity, Contact: Mayor Eufranio C. Eriguel
Aringay - home of tasty "bangus" and aquaculture products, Contact: Mayor Aida Juloya
Bacnotan - limestone capital also known for historic Bacsil Ridge, Contact: Mayor Ma. Minda L. Fontanilla
Bagulin - trekker's paradise with La Union's highest peak; Contact: Mayor Salcedo A. Tumbaga
Balaoan - cradle of the Seven Martyrs and one of the oldest towns, Contact: Mayor Joaquin C. Ostrea Jr.
Bangar - renowned for its handwoven cotton blankets, Contact: Mayor Gary N. Pinzon
Bauang - world famous for its beaches and picturesque sunsets, Contact: Mayor Martin P. de Guzman III
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Sudipen - town of many rivers and home of Kankanaey and Bago peoples, Contact: Mayor Visitacion M. Piaoan
Tubao - abundant farming town and home of the largest credit cooperative, Contact: Mayor Violeta G. Verceles

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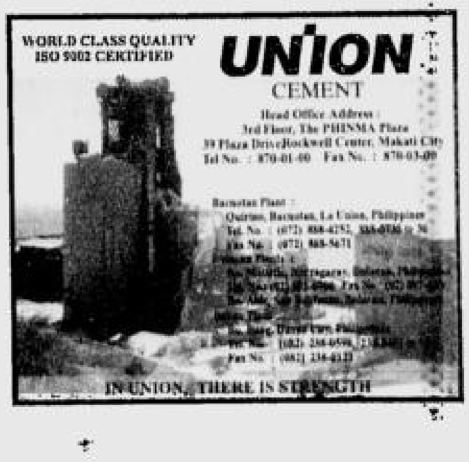

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Expired chocolates down 354 pupils in Davao City

DAVAO CITY—At least 354 elementary students in Tibungco and Sasa districts here were rushed to various hospitals on Wednesday after eating imported chocolate and candy bars.

Ferried by ambulance cars in groups, the children aging 7-14 have complained of severe stomachache and vomiting.

They were later released after treatment.

Officials learned that the chocolates and candies, sold to pupils of Osmeña and Sto Niño elementary schools at P2 per piece, were expired.

Authorities have placed at least four persons, including an employee of the City Environment and National Resources (Cenro), under police custody in relation to the mass food poisoning.

As this developed, Mayor Rodrigo Duterte ordered the police to confiscate all imported chocolate candies sold by ambulant vendors, retail stores and individual traders whether these are still good or have already expired.

He also urged vendors to voluntarily turn over similar confections to authorities.

"If you continue to sell them despite my warning, I can kill you. Stop selling it. If you do, you might end up in the shoot-to-kill list," Duterte said.

Duterte also urged the Department of Education to come up with a directive prohibiting the sale of imported candies and chocolates in schools.

SAMPLES of the dangerous chocolates and candies.
ANTHONY S. ALLADA/ PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Acting Mayor Luis Bonguyan said it was fortunate that none of the students suffered serious illness because of the expired chocolates.

The assorted imported chocolates and candies that included the brands "Vanhouten" and "Sugarfree" were manufactured in Austria.

Bonguyan said when authorities took a closer look at the labels of the chocolate bars and candies, it was found that these have expired in 1995, 1999, and 2000 yet.

Dr. Gerardo Cunanan, director of the DMC, said the artificial sugar used in the making of the chocolate bars and the candies have caused the poisoning.

He said the "unnatural" sugar used by the confectioners turned into acid and alcohol after it expired.

Chief Insp. Desiderio Cloribel, chief of the Bunawan police station, said investigators found that Cenro employee Nelson Poquita salvaged the expired chocolates and candies from a garbage area in Agdao District.

Cloribel said Poquita himself admitted he brought the chocolates to their house.

Poquita's wife, Jane and relatives Maria Daisy and Marlyn Batal, had reportedly sold the chocolates to the nearby Sto. Niño Elementary School in Tibungco and the Osmeña Elementary School in Sasa.

The bargain drew the children in, according to Belma Ebardo, the school's principal.

In a separate interview, Poquita said he retrieved the stale confections from the dumpsite and distributed these to his neighbors in Tibungco.

"But I did not know that the candies were sold by my neighbors," he told the INQUIRER.

Poquita's wife Jane said she even allowed her children to eat the confections, but denied she directed them to cash in on them.

"It's not true that I allow my kids to sell them, and we did not know that it can be dangerous to eat since we ate it ourselves. We were not harmed," she said.

Batal admitted selling the chocolate and candy bars to buy food for her family and medicine for her sick child.

"I never knew that it can be dangerous," she said.

Bonguyan said charges would be filed against those who disposed of the said chocolates.

"There must be negligence on the part of a candy factory that threw these chocolates in the garbage area," he said.

Chief Insp. Huberto Abadia of the Sasa police said serious charges also await the four persons who sold the candies. ***Anthony S. Allada with reports by Dennis Jay Santos and Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Iloilo provincial execs buy new phones to become 'efficient'

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Top officials of the provincial government went on a buying binge of the latest models of mobile phones, saying the purchases would mean an efficient provincial government.

Gov. Niel Tupas Sr. has approved the purchase of 36 units of Nokia 8250s at P10,000 each for the division chiefs of the provincial government.

Vice Gov. Roberto Armada bought 15 units of Nokia 8210s at P13,000 each for members of the provincial legislative council, including himself and the board secretary.

Tupas said the purchase of sleek Nokia 8250s for the heads of the provincial government offices was "a must" so he could be in contact with his subordinates at anytime of the day especially when he wanted to call their attention on complaints.

Armada said the purchase of Nokia 8210s was the solution to the officials' difficulty in contacting each other.

Manuel Mejorada, executive assistant to the governor, described the cellular phones as "productivity tools."

He said it would be easier for the division heads to keep track of their schedules, appointments and other official businesses because Nokia 8250s have built-in calendars.

The money for the purchase of the phones, which cost a total of P500,000, comes from the capital outlay of the provincial governor's office and of the provincial legislative board.

"I always treat the board members with equity and fairness, so all of them were provided (with the mobile phones)," Armada said.

The vice governor said Nokia 8210 is the "least priced among the newest models."

The Nokia 8250 was bought through direct purchase agreement with Smart Communications. Each unit comes with P600 monthly subscription plans.

Armada called for the bidding of the pre-paid mobile phones on Feb. 21. But the board members already received their units from one Edward Landero, a distributor, on Feb. 15.

Ramie Salcedo, a personnel at the general services office, said Landero's Exchange Enterprises had joined the bidding, along with two other mobile phone distributors.

Salcedo said there has been no winning bid yet because all the bids are being evaluated. "I am very careful because the issue is already controversial," he said.

Armada, however, admitted that Landero had distributed the units to board members even before the bidding.

Armada and Salcedo said it was a "risk" that the supplier took as the provincial government had no obligation to pay him if the phones were lost or were damaged because "the contract was not consummated yet."

Dominador Tersol, Commission on Audit (COA) regional director, said there is no prohibition on the purchase of mobile phones for the use of government officials.

BOLINAO 'BANGUS' INDUSTRY

Fish pen owners asked to prevent another fish kill

BAGUIO CITY—An environmental activist in Bolinao, Pangasinan, has appealed to operators of fish pens and cages in the town to lead efforts in rehabilitating Bolinao's waters and preventing another fish kill.

Margaret Celeste asked members of the Bolinao Fishpen/Cages Operators Association to "be in the forefront (of efforts to repair) the damage you have done to the environment."

"The fish pen/cage industry in Bolinao has given economic opportunities to our townspeople in terms of jobs and taxes. But it has also contributed to the fast degradation of our coastal waters in the aquaculture area, which led to the massive fish kill," Celeste said in her letter of appeal sent to the operators of fish pens and cages in the town.

Operators lost about P600 million last month when massive fish kills hit fish pens and cages in five Bolinao villages where *bangus* (milkfish) were being cultured.

The University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute traced the fish kills to the proliferation of fish structures that led to the blooming of phytoplanktons and to low dissolved oxygen (DO) level in the town's waters.

The UPMSI said its initial laboratory test showed that the fish kill coincided with the blooming of phytoplanktons identified as *Prorocentrum minimum* (*P. minimum*) reported to be associated with stagnant water.

To give the municipal waters a chance to recover, Mayor Jesus Celeste, himself a fish cage and pen operator, ordered a moratorium on aquaculture activities in the town.

Margaret Celeste said the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and other technical agencies have strongly recommended a moratorium on the operation of fish pens and cages in Bolinao.

"There's a lot to be done before the moratorium will be lifted. We need to work together as one--the local government, non-government organizations, fish pens and cages operators, the academe, BFAR, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other technical agencies—for the strict regulation of the fishing industry," she said.

"Otherwise, the Bolinao *bangus* industry will not recover and be known again."

Celeste said Bolinao residents succeeded in stopping the establishment of a cement plant in the town in 1996 and may again rise up against the operators of fish pens and cages to protect the town's environment.

"We hope you (operators of fish pens and cages) will listen to our appeal. Based on studies, the fish kill can happen again if our *bangus* industry is not properly regulated. And when it happens, you are going to be held accountable to the citizens of Bolinao and to the law," Celeste said.

The Bolinao municipal council declared the town under a state of emergency and classified it as a calamity area on Feb 6.

Resolution No. 2002-05, authored by Councilors George Celeste and Jasmine Camba, cited the fish kill's "unquantifiable damage and detrimental effects on the marine coastal resources in the affected fish pen and cage areas."

The municipal council, in the resolution, said the fish kill was a "disastrous occurrence (that) caused extensive damage and devastation to (Bolinao's) *bangus* aquaculture industry."

The fish kill deprived the local government, fish structure owners and other stakeholders of income, revenues and benefits, it said.

The *bangus* culture industry has boosted the economy of Bolinao, which is among the biggest suppliers of *bangus* in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Until last month's fish kill, about 100 tons of *bangus* from Bolinao were delivered daily to various public markets in Pangasinan's nearby provinces and in Metro Manila. ***Katrina Acupanda, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Ilocos town officials urge boycott of 'killer' bus

BANGUI, Ilocos Norte—Town officials have launched a campaign among residents to boycott a bus liner plying the Laoag-Pagudpud-Cagayan route because of its alleged recklessness and disregard for public safety.

The MVP Express, which earned the moniker "killer bus," has been blamed for a spate of road accidents in this town. The latest accident last January killed three schoolchildren and injured 11 others.

It was one of three accidents that the MVP Express had figured in. The bus liner traverses the northern towns, including Bangui, en route to Cagayan Valley.

Most accidents often occurred in front of the Bangui National High School and within the poblacion.

Public school students staged a rally last month to denounce the bus company's disregard for public safety.

"To minimize the chance of meeting an accident, prudence dictates that passengers should refrain from riding this 'killer bus,'" Councilor Alfredo Garvida Jr. said.

"The operator has not exercised diligence in safeguarding the public. This is not the first time that an accident has occurred involving this bus line," he said.

Garvida lamented that the bus operator has expressed no remorse over the accidents and has blamed Bangui officials for the lack of road signs in the area.

Town officials have already asked the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board to revoke the company's franchise "to put an end to the suffering of residents."

Marcelo Piqera, MVP Express operator, said revoking his franchise was a "drastic move considering that other bus companies have been involved in similar accidents."

"I hope the councilors will think twice if they are doing the right thing. I'm paying my taxes in Bangui," he said.

Piqera has been charged with homicide and reckless imprudence before a Bangui court.

He said a British national residing in this town has goaded passengers not to ride the bus and has threatened to burn all his buses. ***Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: **PAGASA**

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI31° Lo 22°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 24° Lo 13°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 18°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 21°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 21°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 19°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 22°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 22°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 24°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 22°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/03/01/02

Army told not to use minor members of Abu Sayyaf

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman warned the military against using minors, who earlier confessed to being members of the Abu Sayyaf, in military intelligence gathering and other activities against the bandit group.

Earlier, a military intelligence officer based in Basilan confirmed the use of young Abu Sayyaf fighters in intelligence and surveillance work against the bandits.

The same source told the INQUIRER that the information provided by young Abu Sayyaf members was very useful.

He, however, said the minors are not involved in direct operations.

"No child should be a part or victim of war," Soliman told military officials here during yesterday's opening of the Balikatan Trade Fair.

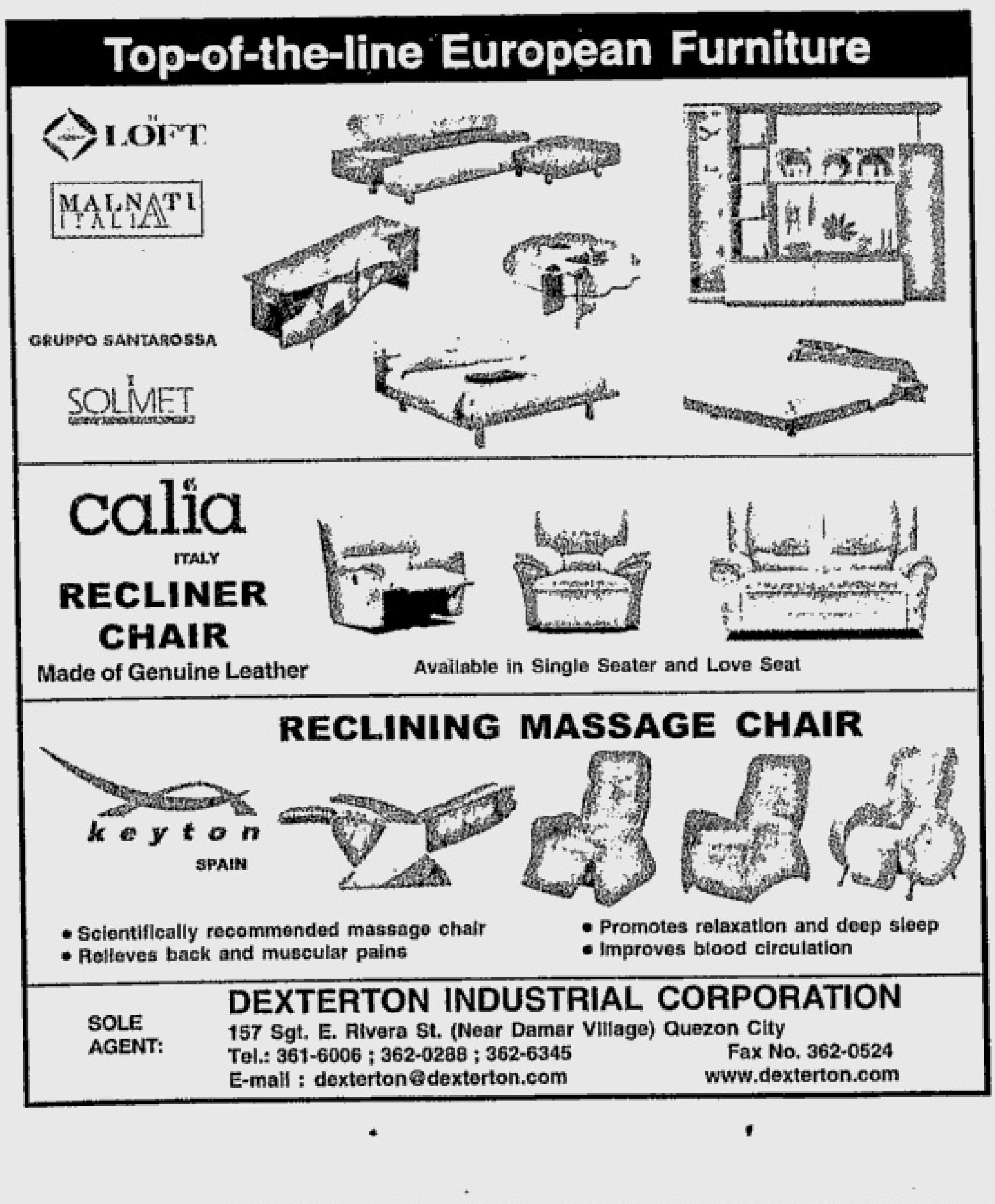
Maj. Noel Detoyato, spokesperson of the AFP Southern Command, denied that the military was using minors in its campaign against the Abu Sayyaf, which the United States linked with Osama Bin Laden's al-Qaida Network.

"These kids were just placed under debriefing (processes) and not (used) as spotters or guides during military operations," Detoyato said.

Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar also sided with the military by saying that the self-confessed young bandits were never used in military operations.

At least three children in Basilan admitted to being members of the Abu Sayyaf.

One of them, a 12-year old boy, said he joined the group because two of his elder brothers are with the Abu Sayyaf. ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



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Study says iodine lack serious in N. Mindanao

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—At least 70 percent of children in three Northern Mindanao provinces have been found to be suffering from serious iodine deficiency, a condition which health officials said contributes to a higher mortality rate.

The Food and Nutrition Research Institute said the results of a study it conducted in 1998 indicated a big number of iodine-deficient children, aged six to eight, in Lanao del Norte, Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental.

The results of the study are valid until 2003, the FNRI said.

The FNRI, in its 2001 Philippine Facts and Figures, said Lanao del Norte has the largest number of children suffering from iodine deficiency at 76.4 percent. Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental had 71.7 percent and 70.8 percent.

The FNRI did not mention how many children were covered by the study, but it said at least 36 out of every 100 children tested have moderate to severe symptoms of iodine deficiency disease (IDD).

IDD is a condition where the thyroid gland fails to obtain a supply of iodine, which is needed to maintain the body's normal structure and function.

The deficiency is mainly due to low intake of food rich in iodine such as seafood and seaweed.

It can lead to increased miscarriages, stillbirths, spontaneous abortions, irreversible mental retardation, cretinism, deaf-mutism, squinted eyes, delayed tendon reflexes and increased mortality among children.

Iodine-deficient adults have low levels of productivity.

The National Nutrition Council (NNC) has recommended the use of iodized salt as the cheapest and most effective way of combating IDD.

However, health officials said the high cost of iodized salt has prevented families with meager incomes to switch to the commodity from the ordinary table salt they were used to.

In Davao City, the Bureau of Food and Drugs has urged local companies to establish more processing plants for salt iodization in Mindanao to bring down the cost of iodized salt in the market. ***Grace Cantal-Albasin and Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Traders, residents welcome Marines' return to Cotabato

COTABATO CITY—Residents here gave a resounding approval to the return of the Marines following the breakdown of law and order in the city and a spate of crimes, including the kidnapping of a female doctor and the recent killing of a councilor.

"We are glad that they (Marines) are back because their past performance in securing the city from kidnappers and other criminal elements had been very effective," said Oscar Tan Abing, president of the Cotabato Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Members of the Cotabato Medical Society (CMS) and other allied health organizations also expressed jubilance at the "battle-tested" soldiers, whose presence here in the early 1990s helped neutralize the notorious Mubarak kidnapping for ransom gang.

The Mubarak gang was the forerunner of the Pentagon kidnapping group that moved into the city.

"They (the Marines) are better trained, well disciplined and committed to their sworn duty to protect citizens from lawless elements," said Dr. Conrado Aguila, acting CMS spokesperson.

Col. Essel Soriano, head of Task Group Cotabato, said he would have "operational control" over the members of the 8th Marine Battalion team who arrived here on Tuesday.

Soriano said the Marines' presence would actually reinforce the present number of government troopers in the city, who included police integrees from the Moro National Liberation Front.

Former MNLF guerrillas were integrated into the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police following the signing of a peace agreement between the rebel group and the government in September 1996.

The tighter security imposed in the city came in the wake of the recent abduction of hospital owner Dr. Rosemarie Agustin and the ambush-slaying of Councilor Alexis Costales on Feb. 17.

Businessmen and prominent persons also reported receiving threats that they will be the next targets of kidnapping.

The spate of crimes has so enraged the business community and medical personnel that at one point, businesses closed shop in protest of the unsolved crimes while doctors refused to respond to night calls.

Businessmen also limited their movements in the city out of fear of being kidnapped.

In General Santos City, a brother of one of the suspects involved in the kidnapping of Korean national Jae Keon Yoon and Carlos Belonio was killed while allegedly trying to escape police custody.

Lt. Col. Demetrio Demaala, deputy commander of the Army's 601st Infantry Brigade, said Titi Binago was killed on Friday after he reportedly tried to grab the weapon of an Army soldier in Palembang, Sultan Kudarat.

Binago, younger brother of Sala Binago, another suspect, was earlier arrested on suspicion that he also participated in the kidnapping.

The military said Jae and Belonio's kidnappers, led by Commander Tigre Jakiri of the MILF's 204th Brigade, wanted P10 million in exchange for releasing the victims.

The military is hunting Jakiri's group in the hinterlands of Palembang. The group has so far eluded lawmen. ***Charlie C. Señase and Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Trekking banned as Phivolcs raises alert on Kanlaon

BACOLOD CITY—Trekking near the crater of Mt. Kanlaon has been banned after the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology reported sustained seismic activities in the volcano that might lead to an explosion.

The ban against trekking within the four-kilometer danger zone was issued on Wednesday when the Phivolcs declared alert level 1 over Kanlaon.

Alert level 1 means the volcano is in a restive state, which could make trekking or "any human activity" within the danger zone dangerous.

The Phivolcs said in a statement that no one should go near the volcano because of "possible sudden phreatic or steam driven explosions."

In the meantime, Phivolcs said monitoring instruments would be installed at the Guintubdan seismic station, which is near the crater, to monitor the volcano's seismic activities.

Kanlaon is the highest peak in Central Visayas at 2,465 meters. A favorite hiking destination, the active volcano dominates the 25,0000-hectare Mt. Kanlaon National Park, considered one of the few surviving national parks in the country.

But the Phivolcs noted an increase in seismic activity in Kanlaon after five weeks of continuous and sustained earthquakes.

In the past two days, the Guintubdan seismic station detected at least 67 earthquakes. The number was above the seismic level of a few quakes per day, said the Phivolcs.

It also noted that it monitored two types of volcanic quakes in Kanloaon. But high-frequency volcanic quakes dominated the low-frequency ones.

"This trend indicates that the volcano is experiencing a possible magma intrusion," the Phivolcs said. "Such an intrusion results in many high frequency volcanic quakes intermixed with few low frequency ones."

The Phivolcs said the quake epicenters were detected over a large area of the volcano, which could mean that a large body of magma was building up in the volcano.

At this stage of activity, the Phivolcs said a major eruption was not anticipated yet because the earthquakes could also be caused by rockslides along the faults. ***Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

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'A political masterstroke'

From page A1

greater risk," he noted.

Well-crafted move

"The move of Estrada is obviously part of the strategy of the defense panel," Senate President Franklin Drilon said.

"I would like to think it was a well-crafted move designed to buy time and win public sympathy for the accused," he added.

In the face of this development, Drilon said that the prosecutors and the justices must exert extra effort to strengthen the people's faith in our justice system, which is now being put to test.

Sen. Renato Cayetano said that Estrada had the right to dismiss his lawyers for any reason, personal or otherwise.

"Legally, it's nothing extraordinary but the consequences are rather significant," Cayetano told Senate reporters.

He said it would be difficult for the public lawyers to defend Estrada since they will still have to acquaint themselves with the case. "And if Erap does not cooperate, it would be difficult for the lawyers," he said.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon opined that "it is an attempt to make his case a political one, by bringing it from the court to the bar of public opinion."

Fr. Jose Dizon of PlunderWatch echoed the same opinion, saying it was a tactic to buy time while trying to gain public sympathy until such time that he can bring his loyalists to the streets.

Former House prosecutors in the Senate impeachment trial of Joseph Estrada yesterday urged the prosecution in Estrada's plunder case not to fall into what they said was a trap set by the ousted President.

"That is part of the overall design to transfer his case from the court of law to the court of public opinion. His intention is all too clear. He does not want justice to prevail," Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno said of Estrada's dismissal of his lawyers.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez said the dismissal of Estrada's lawyers was another delaying tactic.

"If I were the court, I would call Estrada's bluff. I will appoint them (Estrada lawyers) again. Or, if I were the Ombudsman, I would ask that the court re-appoint those lawyers," Gonzalez said.

He said Estrada's lawyers should be reappointed because "unfortunately, you have no great faith in the Public Attorneys Office."

Gonzalez said Estrada could also go to the extent of refusing any lawyer and insist on defending himself.

Legal joke

But Gonzalez said allowing this would give Estrada a ground, should he be convicted, to challenge the fairness of the trial.

"We have a joke in the legal profession that if you have a good case, pound on the table so that the judge would listen to you. But if you have a bad case, pound on the judge so that the judge would get angry at you and you can later say the judge was biased against you," Gonzalez said.

According to Moreno, Estrada and his lawyers know that his conviction for plunder was imminent, not because the court is biased against him, but because of "incontrovertible bank documents" that he is in fact Jose Velarde who owns a P3.2-billion account.

"People may lie but bank documents don't," said Moreno, a longtime bank executive before he became congressman and House prosecutor.

Moreno said the prosecution should also not fall for Estrada's "double-edged admission" that he signed bank documents as Jose Velarde, but only as guarantor.

"I hope the prosecution will not fall into that trap," Moreno said.

He said the admission could be a trap so that the prosecution would no longer examine the Jose Velarde account.

"If the Jose Velarde transactions are scrutinized, many names would be dragged, many banks would be dragged," Moreno said.

He said the Jose Velarde account showed how Estrada "prostituted the entire banking industry."

He said that the account held P3.23 billion in just seven months, from August 1999 to March 2000.

Show evidence

Moreno said Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, who is in charge of Estrada's prosecution, should exert effort to establish that Estrada is Jose Velarde and how he amassed his wealth.

"He (Desierto) cannot now claim victory (because of the admission). The prosecution should rely on the strength of its evidence," Moreno said.

He and Gonzalez conceded that Estrada's move would delay the trial.

If Estrada really fired his lawyers for lack of trust, the court has to give him time to get a new set of lawyers, according to Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, Estrada's supporter in the House.

He said the dismissal of the lawyers would definitely delay the progress of the trial.

Dilangalen said Estrada could not be left to public defenders because they are appointed only if an accused cannot afford to hire his own lawyer.

Needs miracle, not lawyers

Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada Jr. said the dismissal of the lawyers was meant to counter the unfavorable public opinion arising from his admission that he signed as Jose Velarde.

"I don't think Mr. Estrada asked his lawyers to quit because of the bias of the Sandiganbayan. He merely wanted to appeal to the emotions of the people, particularly his supporters to cover for his blunder," Lozada said.

"Mr. Estrada's tear-jerker performance is plain and simple drama so our people should be careful not to be affected by the twists of plot," he said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Liza Maza scoffed at the dismissal.

"Estrada can dismiss his lawyers now. There is nothing more that the defense can do within the perimeters of the justice system that can restore his political career, clear his name and undo his damaging statements. What Estrada needs is a miracle, not lawyers," Maza said.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) also believes the latest development in the Estrada case is just a ploy to pressure the Macapagal administration into allowing him to go into exile using his knee ailment as pretext.

"This latest ploy is meant to use extra-legal factors in putting pressure on the Macapagal regime to enter into a modus vivendi with the Estrada camp," said Bayan.

'Defenseless'

Estrada loyalists, however, said their jailed idol was now "more susceptible to the whims and caprices of the Edsa Dos forces" now that he had been rendered "defenseless."

The Sandiganbayan justices hearing Estrada's cases would only dispense justice "as defined by the Edsa Dos forces . . . who would be happiest if they would see Erap dead," said the People's Movement Against Poverty.

According to Bayan, however, Estrada would not be drawn closer to death but rather to virtual freedom abroad as a result of this dramatic twist in his 10-month legal battle.

"Expect a chorus of voices calling for Estrada's exile in order to avert the 'destabilization' of the administration," the leftist group said in a statement.

The Estrada camp is now just desperately avoiding the presentation of damaging evidence and testimonies against him in his plunder trial, it added.

"(It) is a deliberate and calculated move to cause further delays in the trial now that damaging evidence and testimonies are starting to be heard," said PlunderWatch.

The group said the ex-President's lawyers, public relations strategists and loyalists were now out to pressure the Sandiganbayan to grant his requested US trip for his knee surgery.

"The only plausible explanation for this . . . is that plunder case against him is strong and can withstand the rigor of fair judicial proceedings," PlunderWatch said. ***With reports from Rocky Nazareno, Juliet L. Javellana, Cynthia Balana, Volt Contreras and Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau.***

Erap rejects four lawyers appointed . . .

From page A1

less instructed by the client," Raymund Fortun said at a press conference organized by the Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), Estrada's political party.

Fortun expressed doubts that other private lawyers would offer their services to Estrada.

"And with the hatred and negative publicity being heaped on him by this government, who among private lawyers would be willing to take his cases?" Fortun said.

Renato Bocar, spokesperson for the special Sandiganbayan division hearing Estrada's four criminal cases, identified the four PAO lawyers as Joefferson Toribio, Melita Lauron, Silvestre Mosing and Arturo Temanil.

Toribio, Lauron and Mosing were thrust briefly into the limelight on Oct. 1 last year, Day One of Estrada's plunder trial.

The Sandiganbayan's third division, which was then handling the plunder case, appointed the three as Estrada counsels for the opening hearing, which the accused reluctantly attended without any of his nine private lawyers.

Temanil, a new addition to the group, will serve as the lead counsel for Estrada, said Bocar, quoting information relayed to him by Jose Moya, head of the PAO Quezon City district, an agency under the Department of Justice.

Moya is expected to present the four lawyers formally in court this morning, when the Sandiganbayan resumes its hearing on Estrada's request to undergo knee surgery in the United States.

"Most likely they (PAO) lawyers will ask for a resetting (of the trial schedules) to study the case. He (Moya) didn't tell me for how long, but said it would be for a reasonable period," Bocar said.

Temanil has been a PAO lawyer in the last 20 years, according to GMA-7's "Saksi" news program last night.

But what if Estrada expressly rejects the PAO lawyers?

"The trial will go on. Proceedings cannot depend on the wishes of the accused," Bocar said.

In today's 9:30 a.m. hearing, Estrada's lawyers are expected to submit their formal withdrawal from all of their client's four cases, according to Fortun.

Justice Undersecretary Manuel A.J. Teehankee said Estrada could argue for himself. "He will be allowed to speak on his behalf by waiving his right to counsel."

A la Milosevic

Teehankee said the Estrada trial would proceed "similar to that of (former Yugoslav President Slobodan) Milosevic."

Milosevic is standing trial before the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague for crimes against humanity during the wars in Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo.

Teehankee explained that in civil cases in which one of the parties defaulted, "or does not appear, the court will make a decision based on the evidence presented by the other party."

He said the court could issue a "judgment by default."

In criminal cases, however, the court follows a different procedure in which it will have to satisfy itself that there is sufficient evidence that proves beyond reasonable doubt that the crime was committed by the accused, according to Teehankee.

So when the accused waived his right to counsel, it will have no bearing on the trial. "The accused has the right not to even speak because it is the burden and duty of the prosecution to convince the court of the sufficiency of its evidence," Teehankee said.

He said that in many instances, the accused was exonerated because of insufficient evidence "not because of the weakness of the defense."

Teehankee said the prosecution panel "will fully cooperate and ensure that his rights are protected and the integrity of the justice system is upheld by acting professionally and making sure that all presentation of evidence are authentic and substantiated."

No credibility

At the PMP press conference, Jose Flaminiano, a former co-counsel of Estrada, said the trial from hereon "may have no more credibility especially if President Estrada is compelled to attend without counsel."

Fortun said Estrada was aware that historically "no special court has been created in the world which led to the acquittal of the accused."

"Special courts are created to protect certain interests, not to dispense justice but to exact vengeance," he said in Filipino.

Fortun and Flaminiano said even Estrada's pleading to undergo knee surgery in the United States would be considered "mooted" as his lawyers were withdrawing from all aspects of his case.

"As he said, never mind if he becomes a cripple," Fortun said, clarifying, though, that the 64-year-old fallen leader will continue to get medication for his arthritic knees while in detention.

At the press conference, Fortun turned from a mere lawyer into one of Estrada's staunch defender off-court.

According to Fortun, civil society groups as well as the Makati Business Club now have something to be "thankful for" because Estrada himself is already certain of conviction under the country's judicial system.

"Your dreams will finally come true, but may the Lord have mercy on you," Fortun said in Filipino.

Program to help poor

While claiming that Estrada is seeking anyone's pity now that he dismissed his lawyers, Fortun said "he will not just sit in a corner waiting for a noose to tighten around his neck."

From detention, Estrada will initiate "programs helping other victims of injustice, especially the poor who cannot afford competent lawyers, and are victims of politicking."

Fortun said he would take part in the formulation of the programs, which the Estrada camp is set to announce in the next few days through full-page newspaper ads.

The true story of Mile Long

IN THE interest of truth and fairness, the INQUIRER has reproduced below the statement of Sunvar Realty Corp. on the circumstances behind the signing of the lease contract of the Mile Long property:

"Sunvar Realty Corp. was organized on Aug. 16, 1976 to engage in the real estate business in the country.

"By way of backgrounder, the leased property consists of 22,924 square meters. It is located between De la Rosa Street and Pasay Road, Makati City. The property is registered under the name of the national government of the Republic of the Philippines and National Power Corp.

"On Jan. 1, 1978, the national government and National Power Corp. entered into a lease agreement with Technology Resource Center Foundation Inc. (TRCFI) for the lease of the premises for a period of 25 years, renewable for another 25 years at the option of TRCFI.

"In 1980, Sunvar Realty Corp. offered to sub-lease a portion of the premises from TRCFI to provide parking space for the clients and customers of commercial establishments at the Makati Cinema Square.

"TRCFI refused Sunvar's request to lease only a portion of the premises as it expressed concern that parceling the property in small sections will affect its overall sub-lease value. Instead, TRCFI offered an 'all or nothing' sub-lease arrangement with Sunvar.

"After careful consideration of TRCFI's offer and several negotiation meetings, TRCFI and Sunvar signed on Aug. 18, 1980 a sub-lease agreement under, among others, the following terms and conditions:

"1. Lease price of P15,947,000 plus interest at 16 percent per annum, or a total of P16,813,013, equivalent to P733.42 lease rental per square meter.

"2. Lease period of 22 years and five months, renewable for 25 years at Sunvar's option.

"3. Option of Sunvar to buy the land if the lessor decides to sell it.

"It is noteworthy to mention that at the time of the signing of the sub-lease agreement, the last sale price of an adjacent lot located at the Pasong Tamo area was P1,250 per square meter.

"Furthermore, when Sunvar took possession of the premises from TRCFI, the property was not fit for immediate commercial use. It was underdeveloped. It was occupied by illegal occupants or squatters. A creek prevented access to the adjoining land of Ayala Corp.

"On account of the raw land nature of the premises, Sunvar had to incur an additional amount of P5,092,000 to finance the cost of backfilling, piling, and construction of a road, bridges, water drainage and other infrastructure works on the premises.

"On top of these expenses, Sunvar had to forgo the construction of facilities on approximately 50 percent of the premises due to its shape and areas used for roads, creek set backs and open spaces. In effect, only one-half of the leased premises was commercially suitable for development and utilization.

"It was only after going through these development activities and expenses that Sunvar was able to make full commercial use of the premises. Today, the once underdeveloped property is the site of restaurants, specialty stores and other establishments that regularly pay taxes to the national and local governments.

"In addition to the lease price of P15,947,000, Sunvar pays P1 in 'additional rental' representing the annual rental that TRCFI earlier agreed to pay to the national government and National Power Corp. for the lease of the same premises which TRCFI, in turn, asked Sunvar to shoulder.

"Taking into consideration the prevailing market price of real estate and condition of the premises at the time of the signing of the sub-lease agreement, Sunvar believes the terms and conditions of the lease with TRCFI are fair, adequate and equitable.

"Sunvar entered into the sub-lease agreement in an atmosphere of transparency and with firm belief in the sanctity of contracts freely agreed upon. It regrets that a simple sub-lease contract became the subject of public criticism by no less than the highest official of the land.

"Sunvar appeals to all concerned to uphold the sanctity of contracts validly entered into between or among parties, whether in the private sector or in government. Business cannot thrive, much less prosper, in an atmosphere that makes the validity of contracts dependent on whoever holds the reins of power in government."

Estrada, Sandiganbayan: A test of wills

From page A1

Sandiganbayan justices are susceptible to pressure or will decide the cases in the manner they deem proper based on the evidence presented.

The Supreme Court is keen on seeing to the resolution of the cases as soon as possible. This has been made clear on the way the tribunal has acted on the sub-issues raised by Estrada's lawyers—the constitutionality of the plunder law, disqualification of Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr., creation of a special panel of justices and petition for bail of Jinggoy Estrada.

By ordering a thrice-a-week hearing of the cases starting March 18, the anti-graft court has sent a strong message to the defense lawyers that it will not allow any more delays in determining the innocence or guilt of the accused.

Estrada's decision to disallow his nine lawyers from further representing him in court, however, is expected to cause additional delay that the court had wanted to avoid in issuing that resolution.

Trial continues

The trial has to continue with or without the cooperation of Estrada. In the first place, it is the courts, not the accused, which determines when the hearings should be conducted and how the evidence shall be presented.

The Sandiganbayan cannot be held hostage to what Estrada or his lawyers want or do not want. While it is true courts are obliged to give consideration to the requests of lawyers in the scheduling of trials, at the end of the day it is the courts that have the last word on that issue.

The age or menopause of the lawyers is not one of the elements the courts must consider in determining whether hearings should be held every day or twice a week or once a month.

If the scheduling of hearings is made dependent on the calendar of the defense lawyers or the agreement of the contending lawyers, none of the cases filed in court will be finished during the lifetime of the parties.

As soon as Estrada's lawyers formally withdraw from the cases, the Sandiganbayan will have no choice, but to appoint *de officio* (or provided by the court) lawyers to represent him in the trial.

Contrary to the statement of lawyer Rene Saguisag, the choice of lawyers is not limited to the staff of the Public Attorney's Office, a free legal aid office of the Department of Justice.

The members of the free legal aid bureau of the Integrated Bar of Philippines can be ordered by the court to take on the job given up by Estrada's original defense team.

If there are other private lawyers who are interested in defending him without any expectation of receiving attorney's fees (but with the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be in the limelight), the court can instruct those lawyers to take up the cudgels for Estrada.

Risk of losing

All the evidence or testimonies presented during the hearing in the presence of court-appointed lawyers will be binding on Estrada. He cannot later complain, if the court finds him guilty, that he was denied due process or deprived of the services of counsel.

His refusal to engage the services of other lawyers after his original defense panel had quit or cooperate with the *de officio* lawyers shall be considered by the court as a waiver of his right to counsel.

The Sandiganbayan cannot blink in this confrontation without causing serious damage to the image of our judicial system.

The perception by the public that there are two sets of justice in the country—one for the rich and powerful, and one for the poor and helpless—will be further reinforced if one man can dictate on the court on how his cases should be tried.

Political ploy

There is much to be read from the way Estrada announced his intention to order his lawyers to pull out from his cases. It was done on national television through a TV station partly owned by the family of his son-in-law.

All his lawyers were present when he made the announcement. As if on cue, they shook his hands in an apparent gesture of congratulations shortly after he declared his lack of faith in our judicial system.

The political color of his action is unmistakable.

It was addressed not to the court, but to the public, or to those who still consider him the duly elected President of the country until 2004.

He is trying to secure a political solution to an otherwise legal problem.

If his move attracts a strong response from his followers, possibly within the magnitude of the May 1, 2001 riot in Malacañang, he can put pressure on the executive to let its influence bear on the court to give in to his demands.

However, if his drama is coldly received by his constituency and he sees the grave risk he faces in leaving his fate in the hands of court-appointed lawyers, expect Estrada to sit down with his lawyers again to discuss the least embarrassing way for them to take over his cases again.

Talk of the town

From the practical point of view, he has nothing to lose in barring his lawyers from further participating in the proceedings. He has been confined at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center for more than 10 months already.

Another two or three months delay in the trial will not make a big difference in the depression he is suffering from at present.

With the latest ruckus he created, he has drawn media attention to himself again. The Balikatan 02-1 controversy, the crash of a Chinook helicopter and the issue of the PEACe bonds have elbowed him out of the limelight.

He's the talk of the town once more. If he blinks in his confrontation with the Sandiganbayan, he will be in no worse condition than he is already in.

He only has to make sure he makes the right moves before it is too late. The mistakes of his *de officio* lawyers will be taken against him.

Erap: Big business . . .

From page A1

Estrada identified on "TV Patrol" last night the Ayala and Lopez business clans and the Rufino-Prieto family, which owns this paper, as his tormentors. He also named tobacco and beer magnate Lucio Tan, his erstwhile supporter, as one of his enemies.

"I have big enemies—Ayala, Lopez, Lucio Tan, Rufinos, Prietos, they all conspired. Plus Cardinal Sin," Estrada said in Filipino.

It was the same line taken by Estrada during the start of the nationwide demonstrations against his presidency after a former gambling partner accused him of regularly receiving millions of pesos from jueteng operators.

But naming Tan was something new as Estrada himself had admitted in the past that he was a big financial backer—if not the biggest—during the 1998 presidential elections.

The "TV Patrol" report quoted Estrada as saying that the big business families felt that they would not benefit from the policies of his administration.

Estrada said that three months into his presidency, the Ayala and Lopez clans asked him to approve an increase in water rates. The two conglomerates won the contract to distribute water in Metro Manila.

But he said he put his foot down because water was a basic necessity and raising water rates would affect the poor who propelled him to the presidency.

Estrada's only daughter with Sen. Luisa Estrada married a scion of the Lopez clan shortly after he became President.

Estrada said the Prietos opposed him because of his administration's position that the contract obtained by the family from the National Power Corp. for the lease of the so-called "Mile Long property" in Makati was disadvantageous.

"*Dahil 'yang* Mile Long property, *pag-aari ng* Napocor *'yon. Nakuha nila sa isang* foundation *noong panahon ni* Joker Arroyo (then executive secretary of President Corazon Aquino). *Pinaupahan, binayaran lang nila sa gobyerno ng* P1 a year per square meter *pero napaupahan nila ng mahigit* P200 per square meter. That was very disadvantageous to the government," he said from his detention cell. ***(See Rufino-Prieto family's reply above on this page)***

Estrada was widely believed to be behind an advertising boycott of the INQUIRER in 1999 when he was President because of what he considered the paper's negative reports about him.

As for Sin, the former President accused him of starting the "Estrada Resign Movement." Even up to now, Sin's hand is evident in the opposition against him, according to Estrada.

On the 16th anniversary of the People Power I on Monday, Sin described as "stupid" and "crazy" resolutions in Congress urging the Sandiganbayan to grant Estrada's request for him to go to the United States for knee surgery.

Estrada said he was resigned to what the administration or the Sandiganbayan would do to him.

He said in Filipino that "he no longer gives a damn whether he is taken to the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa or subjected to lethal injection."

You Be the Judge

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Mr. Alvarez has a Lot of Explaining to Do... Specially to the CA

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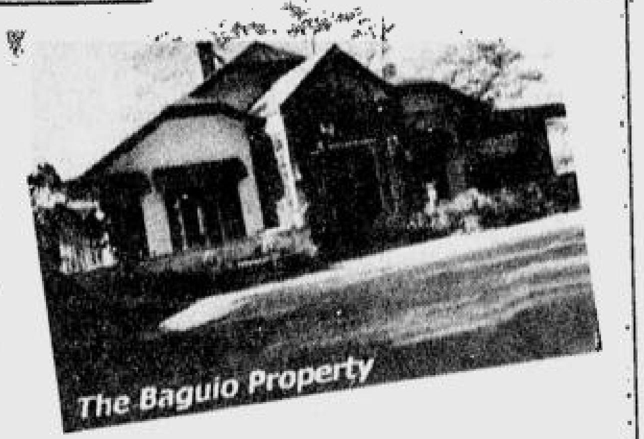

The Baguio Property

The Statements of Assets and Liabilities (SAL) of Mr. Pantaleon Alvarez show that his total assets amount to P36.88 million. With a salary of P462,000 per year as member of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Cabinet, it would take close to 80 years for Mr. Alvarez to amass such wealth!

If that's incredible, wait for the following disclosures in his SAL:

The Magallanes Mansion

Disclosure 1

He made a "cash advance" of P15 million (no petty cash) so that he could buy a "house & lot" in posh Magallanes Village.

Questions

Who or which organization (so generous!) gave him the cash advance?

What were the terms of the cash advance? Was it given in consideration for something?

Disclosure 2

After tearing down the old building structure in his Magallanes residence, the property is now undergoing a major reconstruction.

Question

Why didn't Mr. Alvarez disclose the value of renovation?

Disclosure 3

The Wintrack shares of Mrs. Alvarez were reported as divested.

Question

Why was the proceeds from the sale not disclosed in his SAL?

Disclosure 4

In a Deed of Assignment, Mr. Alvarez "sold" his Wintrack shares at P11 million. However, in a TV interview in "Point Blank," he revealed that he sold his shares at "around P20 million."

Question

Where did the difference of P9 million go?

Disclosure 5

Mr. Alvarez withdrew as Partner from the law firm Alvarez, Silva, Clavano & Associates. Usually a withdrawal means you get back your contributions to the partnership's equity.

Question

How much did Mr. Alvarez receive on his withdrawal from the law firm? Why wasn't this reflected in his SAL?

More Disclosures & Questions

His SAL does not contain "cash on hand," "cash in bank," or "cash instruments". Why, when most, if not all, of the property acquisitions were paid in cash?

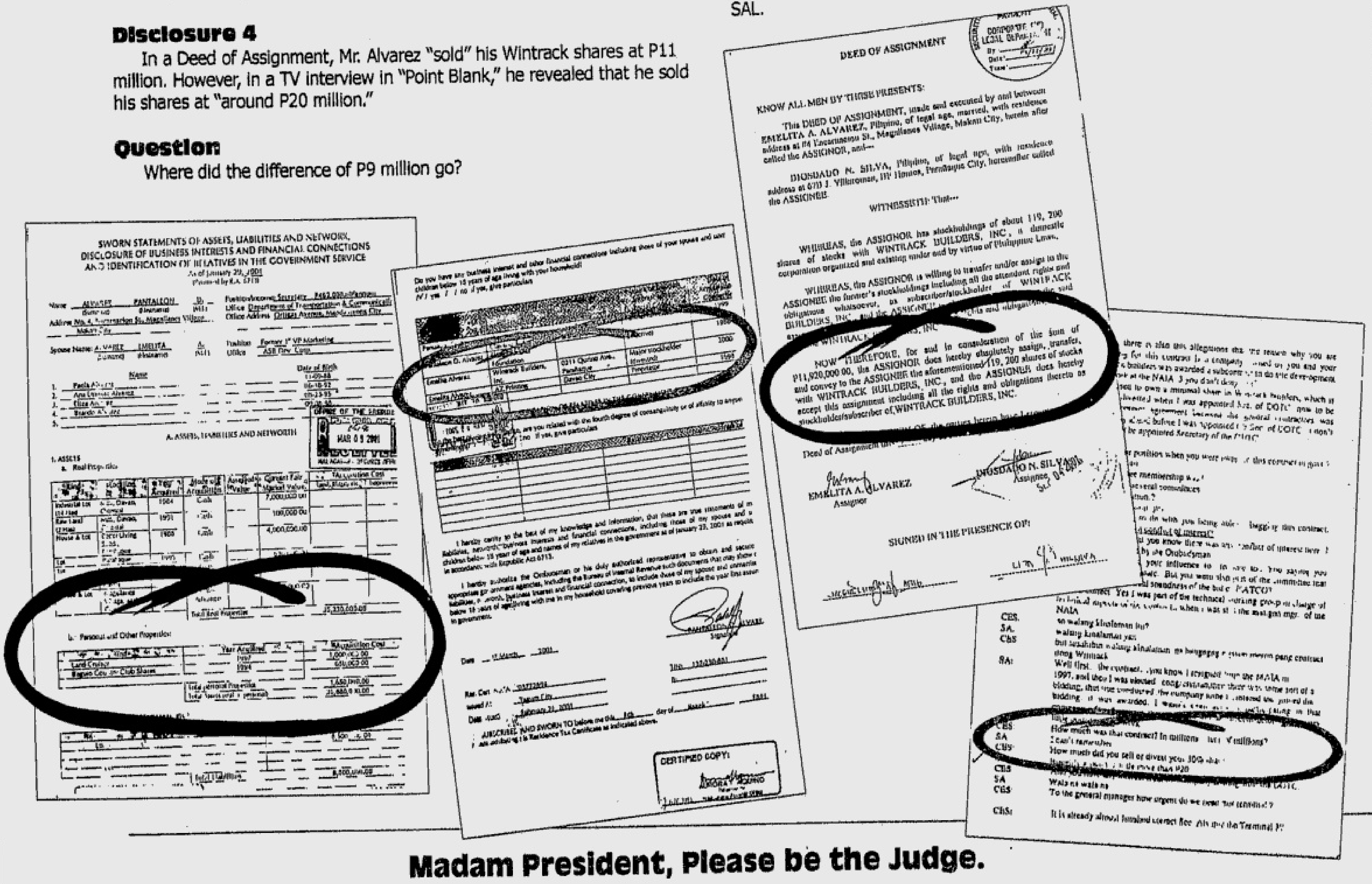
Mr. Alvarez declared conjugal ownership of AZ Printing, but omitted its monetary value. Why?

Does Mr. Alvarez own more properties elsewhere (under different names?) and fleet of cars that he did not declare?

Two glaring items stand out in Mr. Alvarez's Statements of Assets and Liabilities:

Those he declared raised more questions than answers. And those he conveniently withheld cry for answers!

Mr. Alvarez must remember that he has public accountability. He must therefore answer for his disrespect for public documents like the SAL.



SWORN STATEMENTS OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NETWORTH, DISCLOSURE OF BUSINESS INTERESTS AND FINANCIAL CONNECTIONS AND IDENTIFICATION OF RELATIVES IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE

A. ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NETWORTH

CERTIFIED COPY:

DEED OF ASSIGNMENT

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

This DEED OF ASSIGNMENT, made and executed by and between EMELITA A. ALVAREZ, Filipino, of legal age, married, with residence address at Magallanes Village, Makati City, herein after called the ASSIGNOR, and—

DIOSDADO N. SILVA, Filipino, of legal age, with residence address at Davao City, hereinafter called the ASSIGNEE.

WITNESSETH: That—

WHEREAS, the ASSIGNOR has stockholdings of about 119, 200 shares of stocks with WINTRACK BUILDERS, INC., a domestic corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of Philippine Laws.

WHEREAS, the ASSIGNOR is willing to transfer and/or assign to the ASSIGNEE the former's stockholdings including all the attendant rights and obligations whatsoever, as subscriber/stockholder of WINTRACK BUILDERS, INC.

NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the sum of P11,920,000.00, the ASSIGNOR does hereby absolutely assign, transfer, and convey to the ASSIGNEE the aforementioned 119, 200 shares of stocks with WINTRACK BUILDERS, INC., and the ASSIGNEE does hereby accept this assignment including all the rights and obligations thereto as stockholder/subscriber of WINTRACK BUILDERS, INC.

EMELITA A. ALVAREZ
Assignor

DIOSDADO N. SILVA
Assignee

SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF:

CBS: How much was that contract? In millions

SA: I can't remember.

CBS: How much did you sell or divest your 30% share

CBS: To the general manager how urgent do we need the terminal?

Madam President, Please be the Judge.

A member of your Cabinet has made a mockery of an important document like the SAL. He must not be allowed to drag down your government into moral bankruptcy.

It's time for Mr. Alvarez to go.

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ◎ Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

Hingis advances to quarterfinals

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona—Martina Hingis, peeved about her fall to No. 5 in the world, beat Stephanie Foretz of France 6-2, 6-4 Wednesday to reach the quarterfinals of the State Farm Women's Tennis Classic. The second-seeded Hingis will play Czech Daja Bedanova, a 6-2, 6-3 victor over Silvija Talaja, on Friday. AP

12-year-old joins LPGA tourney

WAIKOLOA, Hawaii—Michelle Wie had a lot on her mind as she prepared for her first LPGA Tour start. The 12-year-old Wie, the youngest player to earn a spot in an LPGA Tour event through a Monday qualifier, will join top stars Annika Sorenstam, Juli Inkster and defending champion Lorie Kane in the season-opening Takefuji Classic that begins Thursday (Friday in Manila). AP

ANOTHER ROUT IN THE MAKING

Canlubang pulls away in PAL Interclub

By Al S. Mendoza

BACOLOD CITY—Record-seeking Canlubang pulled away from a pursuer that showed chinks in its armor midway into the 55th PAL Interclub at the Negros Occidental GCC here.

The Sweeties of Canlubang, banking on the 2-over-par efforts of Boyet Zaragosa and J.R. Tanpinco, equalled its 129 on Wednesday to pull away by an impressive 13 points over CAP-Southwoods.

CAP-Southwoods threatened in Round 1 with a 126 behind the 35 of Angelo Que, 33 of Hanso So, 32 of Jun Jun Plana and the 26 of either Artemio Murakami and Erwin Vinluan.

The 34s of Zaragosa and Tanpinco yesterday were ably backed by the 31 of Solomon Gines and the 30s of Rolly Viray and Dave Hernandez in the five-to-play, four-to-count format that gives 3 points to a birdie, 2 to a par and 1 to a bogey.

Their performances were a strong follow-up to the opening day blast of Abe Rosal (35), Tommy Manotoc (32), Juvic Pagunsan (31) and Jun Bernis (31) at the wind-swept Bacolod GCC in Binitin, Murcia.

"The boys showed consistency," said Canlubang captain Luigi Yulo. "The lead is comfortable. But we are not discounting Southwoods yet. We're fortunate that our young players delivered today because Southwoods fielded quite a strong team."

But the anticipated challenge from CAP-Southwoods fizzled somewhat as it could only collect 119 after a fighting 126 on Wednesday.

Jeric Hechanova, however, isn't tossing in the towel yet.

"We are 13 down, yes, but if we could pare down Canlubang's lead to six tomorrow, then it would be a down-the-wire finish," said Hechanova, CAP-Southwoods' team manager. "All is not lost."

Jerome Delariarte was CAP-Southwoods' top scorer with 32, followed by Juami Rocha with 30, Montito Garcia 29 and Cookie La'O 28. Lyndon Barril had a no-count 26.

Canlubang had a 258 total against CAP-Southwoods 245. Luisita was third with 226 (112-114) behind the 33 of Francis Gaston, 28 of Gene Bondoc, 27 of Iggy Clavecilla and the 26 of either Jojo Guingona or Jojo Fernando.

If Canlubang wins again, it will become the first team in PAL Interclub history to score a "three-peat" twice while also becoming the first to register 11 victories since the tournament's 1948 inaugurals.

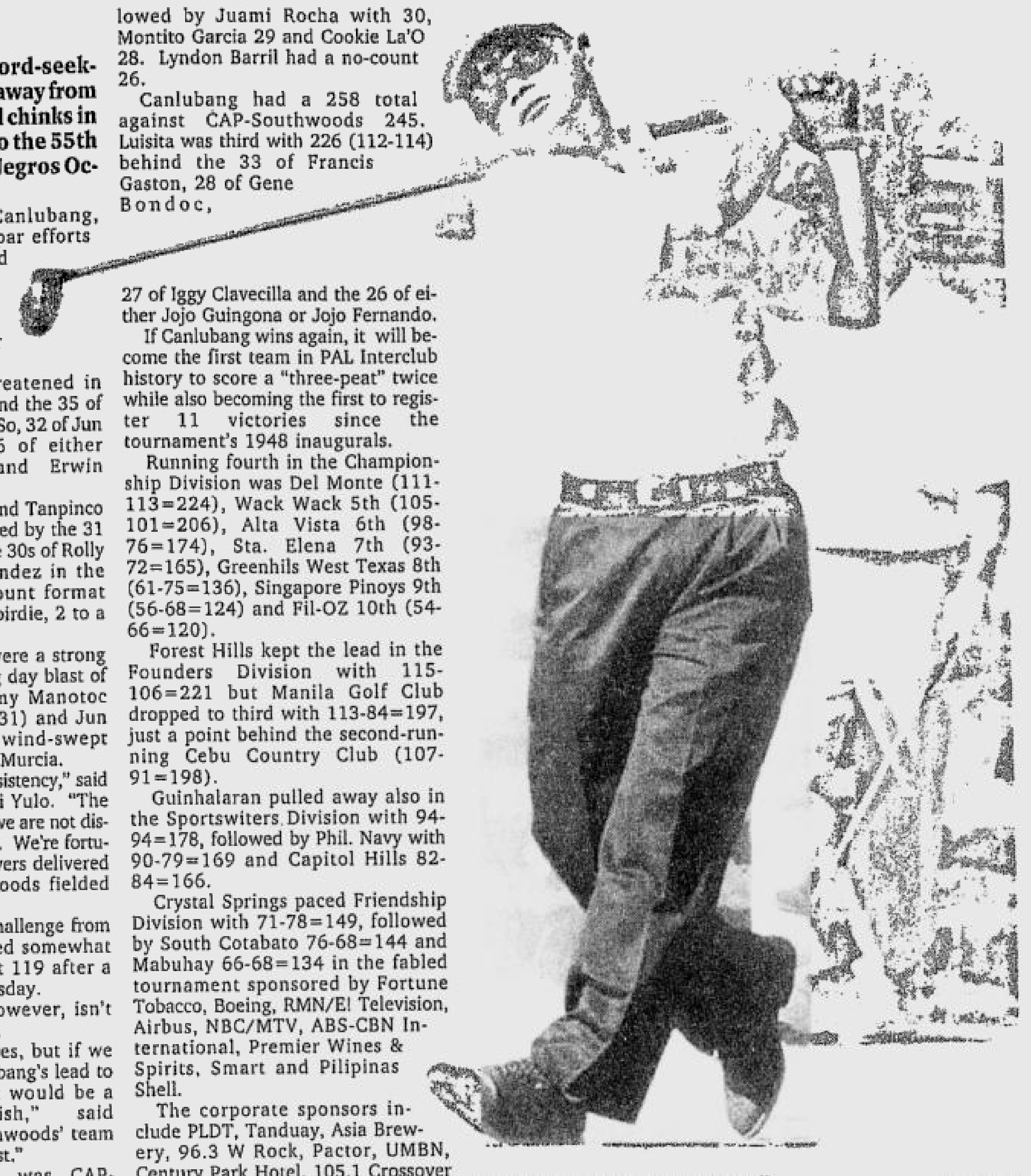
Running fourth in the Championship Division was Del Monte (111-113=224), Wack Wack 5th (105-101=206), Alta Vista 6th (98-76=174), Sta. Elena 7th (93-72=165), Greenhils West Texas 8th (61-75=136), Singapore Pinoys 9th (56-68=124) and Fil-OZ 10th (54-66=120).

Forest Hills kept the lead in the Founders Division with 115-106=221 but Manila Golf Club dropped to third with 113-84=197, just a point behind the second-running Cebu Country Club (107-91=198).

Guinhalaran pulled away also in the Sportswiters Division with 94-94=178, followed by Phil. Navy with 90-79=169 and Capitol Hills 82-84=166.

Crystal Springs paced Friendship Division with 71-78=149, followed by South Cotabato 76-68=144 and Mabuhay 66-68=134 in the fabled tournament sponsored by Fortune Tobacco, Boeing, RMN/E! Television, Airbus, NBC/MTV, ABS-CBN International, Premier Wines & Spirits, Smart and Pilipinas Shell.

The corporate sponsors include PLDT, Tanduay, Asia Brewery, 96.3 W Rock, Pactor, UMBN, Century Park Hotel, 105.1 Crossover and GE Aircraft Engines.



LUISITA'S Iggy Clavecilla teeing off. JESS YUSON

Eric should practice what he preaches

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

SINCE 1990 when the Philippine Sports Commission was created, the PSC has always been known more for its shortcomings than for its successes. On record, its only contribution to glory was during the Southeast Asian Games in Manila in 1991 when it bankrolled the Philippine delegation that landed a mighty second behind powerhouse Indonesia, losing by a single gold medal in their battle for the overall championship.

Through the years, however, sports in the country has not made any progress. From her once lofty standings, the Philippines has become one profound disappointment in the region, no longer a force to reckon with like in the past.

One major reason why the Philippines is losing face in the Asian sports arena is because many PSC officials, including those from the Philippine Olympic Committee, are always quarreling, lacking in delicadeza and uncaring for the poor and hapless athletes. And to aggravate matters, PSC officials are always travelling with the national delegation using public funds although they have no personality in IOC-recognized events like the Olympics, Asian and Southeast Asian Games. Worse, despite repeated public demands, they have consistently failed to render an accounting of their expenses in their junkets abroad even though the people have the right to know how their money was spent. Could they be hiding something from us, the taxpayers who are paying for their upkeep?

The other day, PSC chair Eric Buhain said there would be no junketeers in the Busan Asian Games like in the past. Well and good. The 32-year-old Buhain should set the example by staying home together with his commissioners.

"No more than 180 athletes, 90 of whom are team officials, are entitled for slots in the Busan-bound delegation this September," said POC secretary general Romy Ribaño. He added that the POC is ready to spend at least P5 million on top of the P30 million allotted by the PSC for the national delegation.

In the last Asiad held in Bangkok four years ago, the Philippines sent more than 300 athletes, winning only one gold in the unlikely sport of 9-ball men's doubles billiards. The Philippines with a 1-5-12 (gold-silver-bronze) harvest finished 21st overall in the standings, narrowly beating newcomer Vietnam by just one bronze.

"It's very clear nothing has changed insofar as developing competitive athletes is concerned," said former PSC chair Carlos Butch Tuason after that humiliating showing. "We won't let this happen again."

Kaya?

By the way, I want to stress again that the positions of PSC chair and commissioners are very important and delicate positions. And that these should be given to people who rose from the ranks, those who have a wide background in sports, not just to any Tom, Dick and Harry and to political appointees who have little or no experience in sports at all.

PSC not closing doors on Tubod as Palaro host

By Marc Anthony Reyes

EVEN THOUGH the Philippine Sports Commission has already vouched for Naga City as the host of the 2002 Palarong Pambansa, PSC chair Eric Buhain yesterday said he is not closing the doors on Tubod, Lanao del Norte, as a possible venue of the week-long event set for May 12-18.

In fact, Buhain told the Inquirer that he has sent PSC commissioner William "Butch" Ramirez to Tubod to make an ocular inspection of the site even as the newly installed chair conducts his own visit of the possible Palaro site in Naga City this weekend.

Buhain said the simultaneous inspections are in anticipation of the decision of President Arroyo, who is set to name the venue of the P42-million competitions in the coming weeks.

"The PSC and the Department of Education are pushing for Naga City, but it's still up to the President to decide which venue is the best for this year's Palaro," said Buhain, who just finished visiting the 16 venues of in Naga City.

Buhain said he will next check the billeting capabilities of the city which last hosted the event in 1997 before going through the technical inspections over the weekend.

At the same time, Ramirez is in Tubod to look into the newly built Lanao del Norte Sports Complex, which has been constructed primarily to stage the Palaro two years ago until the Games was postponed due to lack of funds.

Lanao's new complex was tested late last year when the First Mindanao Friendship Games was held there.

'Galleros' tilt March 4

THE FOURTH leg of the Galleros de Manila 5-Cock Derby is set for March 4 at the Roligon Mega Cockpit with 75 quality fights expected.

Sponsored by Ninja Superfeeds, this derby is hosted by Voltaire Fronda and Col. Arthur Senosa.

Saipan-based cocker Jhun Marasigan of the JM Intruder entry ruled the 3rd leg of this circuit held last Feb. 13 with a perfect 5 points.

With four derbies remaining, leading in the cocker of the year standings after three legs are Bobby del Rosario of Mangzee Gamefarm with 10 points, followed closely by Iking Araneta and Jhun Marasigan with 9 points apiece and in solo third spot with 8.5 points is the entry of Emmette San Juan.

Promoter Danny "Showdown" Ty announced that the P300 gate prize is buy-one, take-one until 6 p.m. after which it is sit-anywhere basis.

He also announced Roligon's Account No. 003121-000198-3 at Allied Bank has been closed last Aug. 24, 2001.

Any check issued under this account shall not be honored as it was issued fraudulently, Ty said.

He also said that weight between 1.8 kg and 2.4 kg must be submitted on March 3, Sunday, from 1 to 10 p.m. For inquiries call Tiling or Lito at Roligon, 833-16-38 or 833-22-75.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1993, Bong Coo-Garcia and Irene Garcia garnered 1199 pins to snatch the class O doubles plum in the 10th TBAP Open championship at the Green Valley lanes. Also today in 1993, Cesar Ababa fired a one-under par 71 to post a three-stroke victory over Rudy Labares at the PGA national in Canlubang, Laguna.

St. Francis enters finals

By Roy Luarca

ROXAS City—St. Francis of Assisi kept its cool in the wake of Salazar Institute of Technology's highly physical plays and was declared the winner, 75-41, yesterday to assure itself of defending its collegiate title in the National Students Basketball Championships at the Dinggoy Roxas Civic Center here.

Basketball Referees Commission national head Gil Reglo awarded the game to the Doves to prevent the situation from getting out of hand with still 1 minute and 20 seconds to play.

"Under Fiba rules, I am empowered to stop the game when the players are no longer playing with the ball, but with the man," explained Reglo.

Three SIT players were banished from the court due to unsportsmanlike conduct, while several others received technical fouls in the second half after they failed to stop the Ranidel de Ocampo-powered Doves from pulling away.

Reglo's decision was well-received by the packed crowd, who booed the SIT players as they went out of the court.

Play was halted for nearly 10 minutes after Isagani Mercado hit St. Francis' Roy Billanes with an elbow to the face, 46-30, early in the third quarter.

De Ocampo then took charge, firing seven of his 23 points that included three triples as the Doves pulled away, 55-30.

The Doves posted their fourth straight victory and would meet the winner of the University of Visayas-Las Piñas College tussle, being held at presstime, in today's finals of the BAP-organized tournament.

Reigning titlist San Beda College cruised into the semifinals of the tournament by whipping Agro Foundation High School, 94-60. Other qualifiers were University of Visayas which beat Philippine College of Criminology (75-68), St. Francis of Assisi, which subdued Sacred Heart of Montessori (76-66) and local entry Colegio de la Purisima Concepcion, which nipped West Negros College, 76-75, in the morning games.

The tournament, sponsored by Accel, the official outfitter, Burlington socks and Molten balls, is also being supported by Roxas City Mayor Antonio del Rosario, Gov. Vic Bermejo and lawyer Ronnie Dadivas, the BAP provincial chair.

Lhuillier dribblers advance

CEBU CITY—M. Lhuillier dumped Guardo-Pampanga, 84-65, to clinch a final seat in the Cebu Basketball League President's Cup at the Cebu Coliseum.

The Jewelers built a 26-16 first quarter lead and never looked back en route to their fourth win in five games.

All the Jewelers who saw action contributed in offense with four of them churning in double-digit figures.

Mark Ocañada emerged as M. Lhuillier's top gunner with 17, ex-pro Henry Fernandez chipped in 14 and Jerry Jaca and former PBA import Darryl Smith had 12 points apiece.

Guardo-Pampanga closed out the round-robin eliminations with a 3-2 win-loss slate, same with Spring Cooking Oil which lost to Osaka Iridology, 80-84, in the other game.

Spring though will take the other final lot by virtue of the winner-over-the-other rule. Spring defeated Guardo-Pampanga in their previous meeting, 90-78.

The Jewelers, whose only loss was inflicted by the oilers in the tourney-opener, seek revenge when they meet anew in the winner-take-all match.

"It will be an interesting match. Their first meeting was a tight battle to the finish, now they meet again with the championship at stake," said CBL president Jonathan Guardo.

Seipi tenpin tourney starts

THE SEVENTH edition of the Seipi Tenpin Bowling Tournament got going yesterday at GameworX, 4th level of Festival Supermall in Filinvest, Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

A total of 32 squads are vying for the title for the tournament, with defending champion Zilog Electronics Philippines Inc. looming as the team to beat.

The tournament, to last until June 27, is divided into Classes A, B and C. Champion team will receive a total of P10,000 and trophy.

"The tournament grows bigger each year that's why we're very happy," said Seipi organizing committee chair Jesus Felipe.

Seipi Tenpin Bowling tournament started in 1984 with 12 member teams participating at Astrobowl, Magallanes Commercial Center.

RACING TIPS

At San Lazaro By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Free Way 2. Byeboom 3. Jubilee
Race 2—1. Jackpot 2. Classic Model 3. Kokoro 4. Irish Diplomat
Race 3—1. Shape of the Wind 2. Gossip Column 3. Sky Wind 4. Shuttle's Rianne 5. Two Thumbs Up
Race 4—1. En Carta 2. Royal Worship 3. Gifted Galloper
Race 5—1. Hemisphere 2. Real Piker Master 3. Top Dancer 4. Lady Queen
Race 6—1. Standing Ovation 2. Oh Diva 3. Cristel Jay 4. Gambatte 5. Ticket to Fame 6. Earth Angel
Race 7—1. Bull Strike 2. Golden Tale 3. Star Sapphire 4. Sunflower 5. Lady Victoria
Race 8—1. Carolina Belle 2. Royal Diamond 3. Proud Spirit 4. Firenze Rose
Race 9—1. Nobel Prize 2. Dominant Dancer 3. Little Voices 4. Silver Flyer 5. Ready Aim Fire 6. Joahnn Song

Eagle Ridge transforms into a golf haven

THE MAIN entrance to the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite boasts of a signage that cannot be seen anywhere else in the country: Dye-Open, Faldo-Open, Aoki-Open.

With three championship courses in full bloom and the fourth one designed by Greg Norman fast taking shape, the sprawling Eagle Ridge complex has definitely become a golfers' haven.

No other club can accommodate 500 or more players in one day without the usual complaints of T-R-A-F-F-I-C.

Eagle is a golfing lauriat where one can take a pick from a Dye course requiring such high-level of accuracy, a Faldo layout needing a lot of management and a gentle Aoki which can spew its own dragon fire to the bold and daring.

Recent months had seen a steady rise in daily rounds among members and guests with foreigners coming by the busloads. Arrivals are peaking at the right time when excitement over the main clubhouse is hitting fever pitch.

Joint venture partners Sta. Lucia Realty and Alsons Land Corp. have bravely battled the roughly swinging mood of the property market to pursue one of the most ambitious residential and golf development projects in the Philippines.

The timetable, according to Eagle Ridge project director engineer Winnie Gob, gets the main clubhouse into a soft opening by summer to complement the existing Dye and Aoki clubhouses.

The Norman course, Gob said, is expected to be finished by early 2003 to wrap up Eagle Ridge's grand 72-hole package also made famous by its Fore by Four marketing pitch.

"We've weathered the storm so to speak and with such positive outlook, we're now looking at the bigger picture which is getting worldwide attention to boost tourism," said Tommy Alcantara, chair of EGCC.

Alcantara adds that with Sta. Lucia president Exequiel Robles giving so much focus to his company's flagship project, Eagle Ridge stands to get its much-deserved spot among Asia's premier golfing destinations.

"The vision of Mr. Robles is for Eagle Ridge to become the only one of its kind in the country. It now appears to me that it can even carve its own niche in the Asian map," he adds.

Chess included in 2006 Doha Asian Games

CHESS has received a tremendous boost with its inclusion as one of 38 disciplines in the 15th Asian Games calendar in Doha, Qatar in 2006.

"This is a big boon to our sport. I'm so happy that my long-time quest to spread chess to all continents, starting with Asia, is beginning to be realized," said Fide (International Chess Federation) honorary life president Florencio Campomanes yesterday after receiving a communication from Olympic Council of Asia president Sheik Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah.

Around 10,000 athletes from 43 countries are expected to paricipate in the Doha Asiad set Dec. 1-15.

"I have great pleasure in informing you that chess is one of the selected disciplines," Sheikh Ahmad wrote.

It was Campomanes who sparked a "chess revolution" in the Middle East when he backed the staging of the World Chess Olympiad in Dubai in 1986.

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Talk N Text edges San Miguel, 82-81

TEAMS	W	L
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Red Bull	3	0
Alaska	2	1
Hapee-RP	2	1
Talk N Text	2	1
Coke	2	2
Sta. Lucia	1	1
FedEx	1	2
Shell	1	2
Selecta-RP	1	2
San Miguel	0	3
Ginebra	0	3

GAME TODAY
(Caruncho Gym, Pasig)
5:30 p.m.—FedEx vs Sta. Lucia

By June Navarro

TALK N TEXT pulled off a nerve-wracking 82-81 victory over San Miguel Beer last night in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Gerald Honeycutt, Richie Frahm and Victor Pablo created a stonewall defense on the Beermen with 17.5 seconds to play, forcing Lamont Strothers and debuting import Mario Bennett to miss their shots from point-blank range.

Strothers, who rained four triples in the final quarter, flubbed two golden opportunities for the Beermen while Bennett took it strong to the hoop as the Phone Pals went on to score their second victory out of three games in a tie with Alaska and Hapee-RP Team.

The Beermen, on the other hand, joined their sister team Barangay Ginebra down at the cellar with identical 0-3 records.

Before the Phone Pals made the defensive gem, Elmer Lago hit a triple from the corner to give Talk N Text a breather, 82-81, with less than 20 seconds left.

"He (Lago) gladly stepped up but it was the defensive effort of the team in final seconds that spelled the difference," said Talk N Text American coach Bill Bayno.

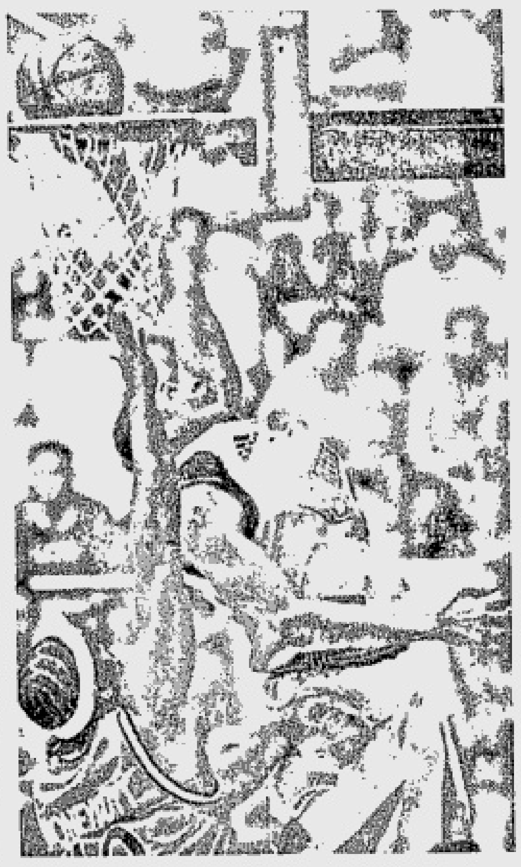
That last play saw Honeycutt knocking off the ball from Bennett's grasp and Frahm grabbing an important rebound to preserve the excellent all-around performance of the Phone Pals.

"Bennett should be in the NBA but Honeycutt just took him out of the picture on that play," said Bayno.

Bennett, a six-year NBA veteran, accounted for half of San Miguel's output as he barreled his way to 20 points, 14 rebounds, two rebounds and a steal in the first 20 minutes of action.

Just the same, the 6-foot-8 Arizona State alum had an impressive debut as he muscled his way to 27 points, 23 rebounds, 5 assists and 3 steals.

Frahm, who exploded with seven triples, topped the scoring department with 31 points.



SMB import Mario Bennett scores against Talk N Text's Gerald Honeycutt. ROMY HOMILLADA

Scores:

TALK N TEXT 82—Frahm 31, Telan 18, Honeycutt 14, Pablo 10, Crisano 4, Lago 3, Evans 2, Gonzales 0, Demape 0.

SAN MIGUEL 81—Bennett 27, Strothers 21, Pena 13, Lago 12, Victoria 4, Gamboa 2, Belasco 2, Duat 0, Mente 0.

Quarters: 22-23, 33-40, 60-59, 82-81.

Jordan-less Wizards lose; MJ undergoes surgery

WASHINGTON—Rasheed Wallace had 22 points and 14 rebounds Wednesday as the Portland Trail Blazers pulled away with a 12-2 run to open the fourth quarter in a 105-101 victory over the Wizards in the NBA.

Washington played one of its best offensive games in weeks without Michael Jordan—and without either of its top two centers. The Wizards shot 56 percent through three quarters and had 31 assists for the game, three short of their season high.

But they went cold to open the fourth period against the Trail Blazers, who have won seven straight.

Jordan, who leads the team in scoring, assists and minutes, had surgery Wednesday morning to repair torn cartilage in his right knee. He is expected to miss 2-to-6 weeks. Jahidi White was sidelined with a strained left shoulder, and backup center Brendan Haywood sat out with a sore left knee.

Richard Hamilton scored 31 points for the Wizards, who have lost six straight and are 1-8 since the All-Star break.

Complete results: Indiana 83, Memphis 82; Philadelphia 96, Minnesota 91; Detroit 88, Atlanta 71; L.A. Lakers 111, Orlando 93; Utah 90, Chicago 78.

AP

'Sagupaan' lures Ucap stalwarts

LEADING members of the highly respected United Cockers Association of the Philippines yesterday confirmed their participation in the upcoming Sagupaan Bigtime 5-Cock Invitational Derby on March 15 at the Pampanga Coliseum, San Fernando city.

They are Ucap president Butch Macasaet, Raymond Velayo, Pol Estrellado, Vic Yu, Benjie Lim, Blandy Tolentino, Jet Fernando, Ramon Mancenares and Wacky Salud.

Other Metro Manila and Bacolod cockers in the list are Tony Lasala, Bobby Wong, Jessie Viceo, Rudy Salud, Lito Orillaza, Eric dela Rosa, Butchoy Olano, Louie Cua, Jerry Ramos, Vice Mayor Mercado, Choy Ampil and Vice Gov. Mario Espinosa.

To be hosted by *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio, the event dangles a guaranteed prize of P0.7 million. Sponsors are Sagupaan Hammer Dowormer and Sagupaan B-50 Forten.

Pampanga and Central Luzon cockers in the list are Eric Lu, Danny Pineda, engineer Ramos, Mayor Punzalan, Jun Jingco, Dan Garcia, Val Lagman, JV Magsaysay, Dennis Roldan, Edgar Lacsamana, George dela Merced, Alexis Villaroman, Nestor Alcala, Mayor Monching Pagdanganan, Peping Taba, Jimmy Mariquit, Dong Pineda, Jun Yap, Melchor Caluag and Berut Balatbat.

For inquiries, please contact 845-3445.

Pasay City 4-cock meet on tonight

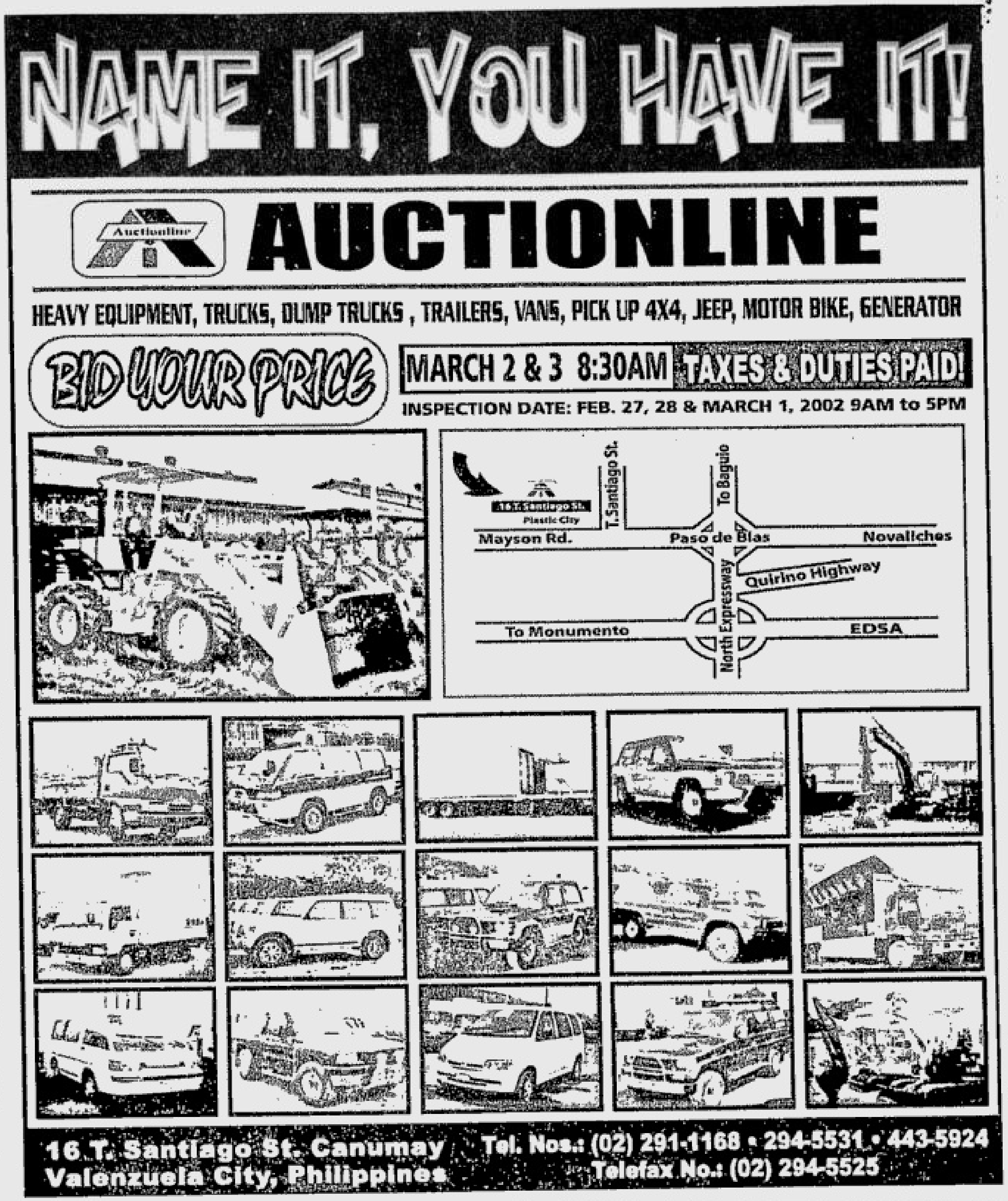
IT WILL be a fight-to-the finish encounter among Metro Manila's big-time cockers as Pasay City Cockpit presents more than 60 thrilling fights in tonight's 4-cock derby.

Hosted by veteran handler Muroy Dolorico and sponsored by Sagupaan Super Feeds and Hammer Dewormer, the event will start at 7 p.m.

Early favorites include Jake Macasaet (BJ Greenwood), Vic Yu (Mandaluyong International June 2002), Louie Cua (LCC April 2), Joel Fernando (JOF), Terence Madlambayan (Clear Cut), Ramon Mancenares (San Pedro GP), Joey delos Santos (Serpentina), Blandy Tolentino (San Pablo Heat), Tony Lasala (Rey San Luis), Bobby Cabillon (RSC), Arnel Pimentel (SPC Creekside), William (Spencer) and Rudy Salud and Lito Orillaza (Winning Time Jobo), among others.

Meanwhile, PCC pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano announced that the 4th PCCA 4-cock derby will be held on March 8 with Daday Sochi, Peping Suarez and FTE-RCA as hosts.

For other inquiries, please contact 816-6750. 843-1890 and 843-1746.



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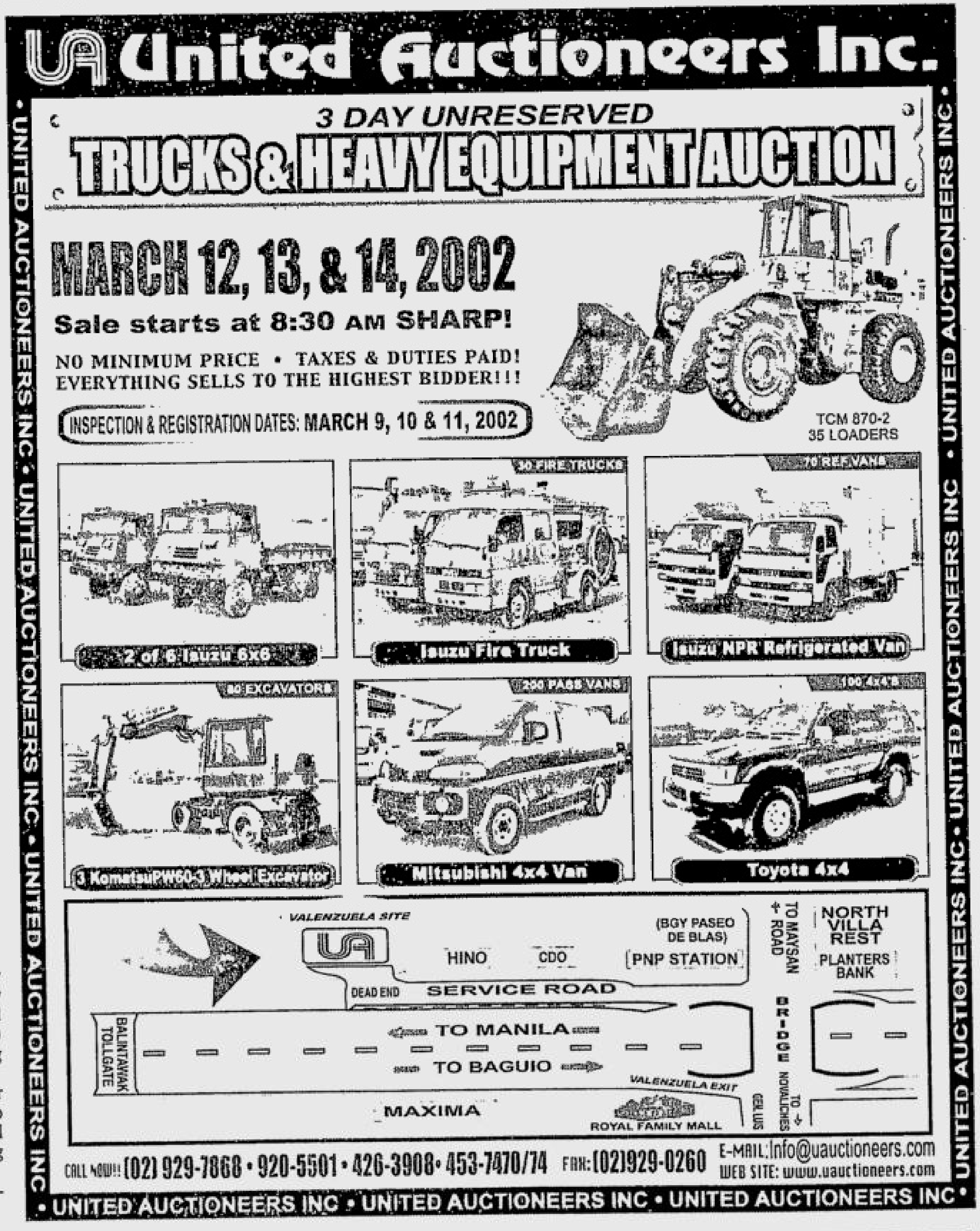

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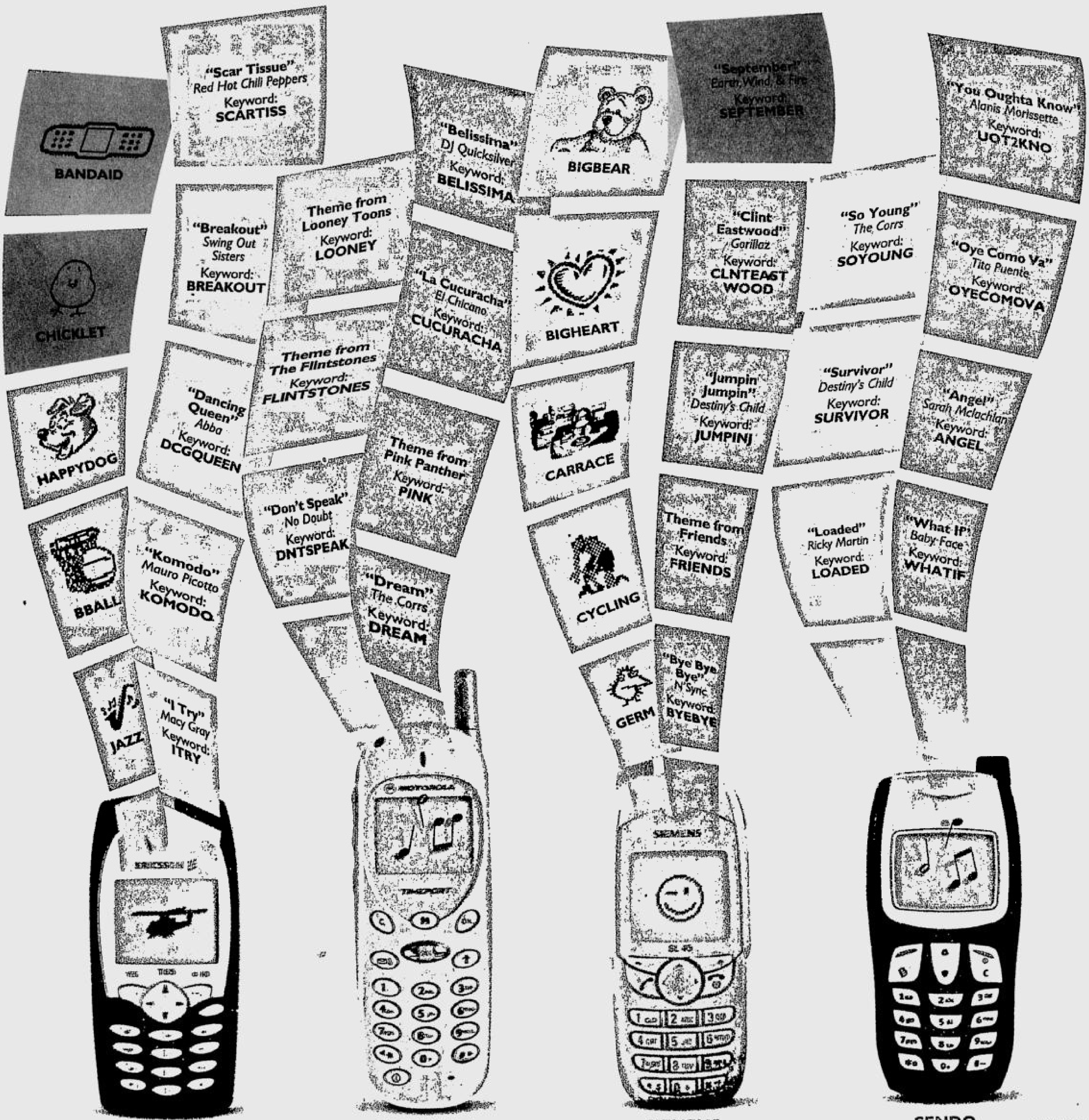
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"I Try" Macy Gray Keyword: ITRY
Theme from Looney Toons Keyword: LOONEY
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"Don't Speak" No Doubt Keyword: DNTSPEAK
"Belissima" DJ Quicksilver Keyword: BELISSIMA
"La Cucuracha" El Chicano Keyword: CUCURACHA
Theme from Pink Panther Keyword: PINK
"Dream" The Corrs Keyword: DREAM
BIGBEAR
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CARRACE
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"September" Earth, Wind, & Fire Keyword: SEPTEMBER
"Clint Eastwood" Gorillaz Keyword: CLNTEAST WOOD
"Jumpin' Jumpin'" Destiny's Child Keyword: JUMPINJ
Theme from Friends Keyword: FRIENDS
"Bye Bye Bye" N'Sync Keyword: BYEBYE
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"Survivor" Destiny's Child Keyword: SURVIVOR
"Loaded" Ricky Martin Keyword: LOADED
"You Oughta Know" Alanis Morissette Keyword: UOT2KNO
"Oye Como Va" Tito Puente Keyword: OYECOMOVA
"Angel" Sarah Mclachlan Keyword: ANGEL
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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

- **Another cop accused of 'robbery'** /A22
- **DOJ urged to resolve petition on girls rape-slay** /A23

AGLIPAY

Mayors back Aglipay

By Alcuin Papa

METRO Manila mayors are in full support of the National Capital Region Police Office chief, Dir. Edgar Aglipay, in his drive to reassign to the provinces policemen found to be absent, tardy or in improper uniform during roll call formations.

Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad, spokesperson for the Metro Mayors League, said they have approved a resolution expressing their full support for Aglipay in their meeting yesterday.

"Aglipay has the full support of the Metro Mayors League in the ongoing tactical movement, reassignment and transfer of abusive police personnel to ensure public safety in Metropolitan Manila," Trinidad said.

MML chair and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza complained that the public blames local officials and not the police hierarchy for any deterioration in the peace and order situation in the city.

"The Metro Manila Council recognizes the necessity and urgency of the deployment of a more efficient, responsible, decent and dignified and professional members of the police to manage and supervise

MAYORS BACK/ A22

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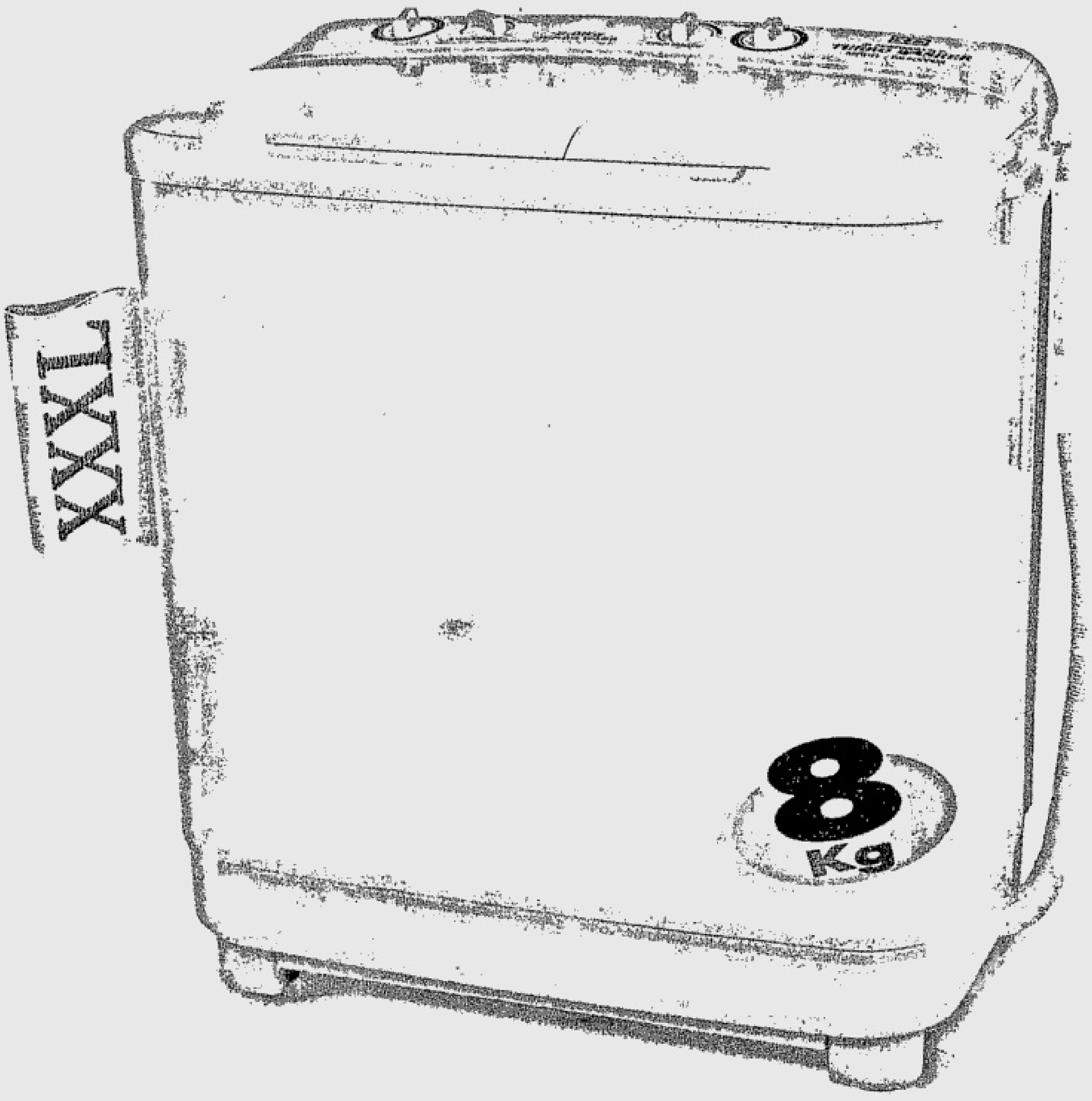

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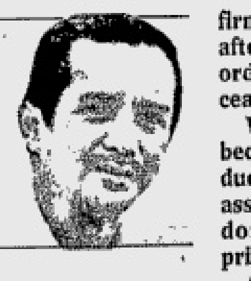
You can be a successful subversive



BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

IF you wake up early, then take a walk and look around, you will readily realize how much your poor neighbors need somebody like you.

You can be an effective agent of change.

Don't be afraid. Get up before the sun, but don't just sit there to smell and sip your coffee.

Live the life of adventure. Be a subversive.

Yes, revolt against all the rot, the decadence, the irresponsibility, the mess prevailing out there.

Be a village activist. You have nothing to lose except your indifference, or your inborn laziness.

Rise and discover your true, concerned self.

Get out and talk to friends, neighbors.

Look the way of those in need, the exploited, the underprivileged.

See and smell the stink.

Then stage a quiet but meaningful revolution.

***

You can't do it alone.

But you're never alone.

There are others similarly concerned, others who would dare get out and make a difference.

Call them in, form a group. You can change things for the better.

That was how Alige, a community organization in riverside Mandaluyong (see Metro, PDI Feb. 21, 2002), was born.

A batch of middle-aged citizens, born, raised and circumcised in Barangay Vergara, where they also had their elementary education, took it upon themselves to improve their environment and help others.

They decided to stage a quiet revolt. They undertook community service.

***

As could be expected, the batch was readily branded a political group, a band with purely selfish motives.

Truth is the Alige membership, whose number increased by the day, was not exactly happy with the way its accusers have been running village affairs.

Shunning the dirty tag, Alige proceeded to conduct programs, like a medical mission in a depressed area.

Members also chipped in and put up metal railings outside a school compound to secure children from chaotic, unpredictable vehicular traffic.

They undertook a beautification program, helping put up a long line of flower boxes along the village main road whose walls were also painted with colorful blooms and ferns.

The suspicion lingered but the members stood pat and proceeded with its mission of augmenting the function of seemingly overburdened village leadership.

***

Heeding the complaints of residents, Alige also turned to its friends in the media to attack the criminal operations of a fiberglass factory whose toxic fumes had caused an outbreak of respiratory diseases, mainly among children, in the neighborhood.

Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos, next noting that the foul firm had no permit to operate and after seeing merit in Alige's fight, ordered the fiberglass factory to cease operations.

With its growing concern, funds became a necessity. Alige next conducted a lottery, getting immediate assistance from Mayor Abalos who donated a colored TV as major prize.

Other benefactors, like Col. Antonio Cabangon Chua, who walked the streets of Vergara as a poor, barefoot schoolboy, gave their share.

The raffle, which sold tickets at only P10 each, was a big success.

The proceeds of the lottery, which were made public, have been set aside for the reclamation and development of a riverside junkyard into a park where residents could partake of weekend cultural fares, like *kundimans* and *rondalla* music. The place could also be used for skills training, a venue for general improvement.

There's also the proposed rehabilitation of the barrio playground, originally dedicated to the village youth but which, after years of neglect, has been reduced into a messy, often-flooded parking lot.

***

Sure enough, residents of the village it has vowed to service and improve have started to look kindly at the Alige association.

Slowly but surely, Alige, which means crustacean fat, has succeeded in demonstrating that the crab, thought to be a symbol of greed and selfishness, could also stand for concern and cooperation.

Come Sunday, Alige will help sponsor, with the assistance of the Lions Clubs International, District 301-D1, Philippines, a bigger mission that will give dental-medical care and distribute reading glasses in Vergara. Leading the mission is Ben V. Buenafe, head of the Obando Lions Club.

But hold it. With its vigorous campaign for change, the non-government organization is being hampered by the unfounded suspicion.

Of course, part of the problem is the clamor of residents, who have witnessed bright changes in their surroundings, for some Alige members to run for positions in the projected barangay polls.

Some people just could not believe the true motives of the active village group.

Alige continues to subscribe to the creed that public office, honestly and sincerely, is for service, not for personal gain.

With that, the village association is plotting to mount a new campaign to convince villagers that they, too, can take part in community activism.

Of course, there are attendant risks. But it's worth it.

You can make a difference. All you have to do is lead the life of a village subversive.

It's good for the health, and the soul, too.

***

(TOAST: Press freedom stalwart Joe Burgos says members of the Philets Foundation Inc. should not miss the group's grand reunion at Club Filipino in San Juan tomorrow evening. Two outstanding graduates of the defunct UST Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, diplomats Sonia Cataumber-Brady and Andy del Rosario, will be honored. Fittingly, Miguel Torres Distillery of Spain, through ATR World's Best Wines and Spirits, will be serving its finest award-winning vintages.)

₱1,200 IN COINS

Another cop accused of 'robbery'

By Philip C. Tubeza

A MANILA policeman has been accused of robbing a rice vendor of P1,200 in coins.

PO3 Angelito Dagoy, an augmentation policeman, was accused of robbing vendor Marlyn P. Ramirez, 43, of Sampaloc, Manila. But Dagoy claimed initially that he confiscated the coins from an illegal video *karera* shop.

" Why did they not confiscate the video *karera* machines which we all saw was openly operating?" Ramirez asked in Filipino.

She told police that Dagoy and a policeman of the Western Police District Blumentritt-España community police precinct, whom she could not identify, tried to take the coins from her. She admitted that she had exchanged peso bills for the coins, which came from a man operating a video *karera* shop.

Ramirez said she was selling rice along the railway tracks near M.H. Loyola in Sampaloc when, at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, the man asked her to change his coins to bills. After she placed the coins in a pot, the two policemen arrived and tried to take the money, saying the coins had come from the illegal video *karera* shop, Ramirez said.

She said she told the policemen to confiscate instead the video *karera* machines, since the coins already belonged to her after she exchanged them with bills.

A tussle for the pot of coins among Ramirez and the two policemen ensued, said Ramirez, whose shouts attracted a small crowd. The policemen returned the money to Ramirez after she created the scene, the vendor said.

Ramirez then went to the WPD headquarters to report the incident. Investigators have set a confrontation between Ramirez and Dagoy.

'Drastic solution' needed

TRANSPORTATION Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez yesterday asked DOTC-attached agencies to seek ways to contribute to the easing of vehicular traffic in Metro Manila.

Alvarez issued the directive following complaints that passenger buses move at a snail's pace along Edsa while awaiting passengers. Many bus companies have suffered losses because many passengers now prefer the fast moving air-conditioned MRT trains.

"If President Macapagal-Arroyo herself has experienced being caught in traffic jams along Edsa, the situation really needs a drastic solution," Alvarez said.

Alvarez asked the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board and the Land Transportation Office to determine if the covenant made at the 1994 Traffic Summit needs upgrading and whether a new traffic summit would be necessary.

Arizabal, 99

ANTONIO Arizabal Sr. died yesterday, Feb. 28. He was 99.

As a young reporter, Arizabal worked with Carlos P. Romulo and Mauro Mendez when they edited the Philippines Herald and the Tribune. Arizabal joined President Sergio Osmena's administration as public information officer. He later became editor of Manuel Manahan's Philippine Liberty News and then night editor at the Associated Press.

In 1950, President Elpidio Quirino appointed him press secretary, a post he occupied for three years. He later served as head of public relations at International Harvester Philippines until his retirement in 1968.

Arizabal's remains will lie in state at the Christ the King Chapel, Green Meadows, until March 3. He is survived by two sons, former science and technology secretary Antonio V. Arizabal, Ph.D., and Jorge V. Arizabal, the current Philippine ambassador to Pakistan.

Goloyugo, 97

DR. Gregorio Carbonell Goloyugo died last Feb. 26 at his residence in New Manila, Quezon City. He was 97.

Goloyugo was a doctor of veterinary medicine from the University of the Philippines. He retired as assistant director of the Bureau of Animal Industry. He was also a former manager of Vitarich Feed Mills, Arcya, and the Bamban stock farm.

He is survived by his wife Tropenia, son Manny and daughter-in-law Sylvia, and their children Michael and Sylvia Jr.

His remains lie in state at his residence in Tayug, Pangasinan. A funeral Mass will be held on Wednesday, March 6 at the Philippine Independent Church and burial will follow at the Tayug Municipal Cemetery.

ERIK ARAZAS

NOT ANOTHER VICTIM

Coast Guard men pull out of the water a "survivor" from a sunken ship during exercises at Manila's South Harbor. The rescuers have just completed training in underwater search and rescue under members of a special rescue team from Japan.

MMDA seeks review of garbage deal

By Alcuin Papa

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority has filed an appeal to the Supreme Court for it to review the case of the garbage contract of Jancom Environmental Corp. and resolve it en banc.

The MMDA yesterday filed before the High Court a 21-page petition signed by Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo.

The SC's Third Division last Jan. 30 upheld the validity of Jancom's contract.

In its petition, the MMDA said "the contract is not binding and enforceable because the President of the Philippines did not approve and sign it. The presidential signature is the vital operative act that will give rise to the birth of the contract."

In its earlier arguments before the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals, Jancom had claimed holding a "perfected and valid contract to undertake the project."

Presidential approval is also required because of the high price of the contract, P390 billion, the MMDA said.

"Considering the enormous (amount of) money involved, it is only legally, nay morally, appropriate that the contract be reviewed and approved by the highest official of the land who has the constitutional mandate—the President," the MMDA said.

On Wednesday, members of civil society and non-government organizations sent an open letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo asking her not to sign the contract, which they said would defraud the government of P390 billion.

Led by Koalisyon Linis Basura and the Citizen's National Network Against Poverty and Corruption (CNN-APC), the groups called the contract "defective and grossly disadvantageous to the government and the Filipino people" and said it violated the ban on incinerators.

The contract also deviated from the original bid proposal, which stipulated a tipping fee $10 per ton of garbage collected and processed, according to the groups. They said the signed contract had pegged the tipping fee at $59 per ton, which the MMDA would pay to Jancom.

The protesters said the contract was "already rejected thrice by the Investment Coordinating Council of the National Economic and Development Authority under three presidents, most recently on Nov. 21, 2001."

Former Presidents Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada did not sign the contract because of its "infirmities," the groups said.

They alleged that the bidding for the contract conducted by the MMDA seven years ago was rigged as documented by a confidential July 27, 1995 memo by former CORD-NCR chair Dionisio de la Serna to then President Fidel Ramos.

The groups stressed that Jancom failed to abide by the requirements of the Build-Operate-Transfer law when it did not post a bail bond, did not submit performance security, had no clearance and no proper notice of award.

Mayors back Aglipay

From page A21

the peace and order situation in Metro Manila," Atienza said.

The MMC is comprised of the 17 Metro Manila mayors and the presidents of the Metro Manila Vice Mayors League and of the Councilors League.

Aglipay thanked the mayors for their support and said he would continue reassigning the policemen, but he qualified that new assignments would be in Metro Manila only and not the provinces.

"They (mayors) said I could continue with my tactical transfer deployment and they will support me but I must consult with them every time," Aglipay said.

The mayors' support for Aglipay came after the National Police Commission (Napolcom) gave the NCRPO chief and WPD officials a deadline to stop the reassignment of about 400 members of the WPD.

Napolcom vice chair Rogelio Pureza issued a memorandum last Jan. 31 ordering Aglipay and WPD officials not to effect the transfer of the policemen.

In his memo, Pureza said the transfer "contradicts and undermines" the civilian character of the police force as mandated in the Constitution. The memo was issued after the Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association complained that the transfer of the policemen was "arbitrary."

Last weekend, Pureza gave Aglipay and WPD director Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos two weeks to implement the memo or risk legal action against the two officers.

Earlier, Pasinos offered to leave his post after several Manila policemen got involved in criminal complaints, including robbery and extortion of tourists and the alleged sexual abuse of a woman arrested for vagrancy.

Aglipay said he would wait for a complaint from Mayor Atienza before considering the reassignment of Pasinos.

Computer firm raided for faking Microsoft software

AGENTS of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) raided a computer firm in Pasig City and confiscated P9 million worth of computers after the bureau found the firm was producing fake Microsoft software.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco identified the firm as the Cylynx Philippines/ Ciscare Technology/ GT Solution Inc., on the 9th and 10th floors of the Pacific Center Building along San Miguel Avenue at the Ortigas Center.

Wycoco said firm directors Stanley L. Tan, Dona H. Rayo, Jennifer Floresca Escasa, Blue Tanhueco, Virginia Tirona, and Yi Weng Chung, alias "Allan Chung" face charges of violating the country's intellectual property code.

The NBI agents also confiscated 117 personal computers and laptops and 27 installer discs with illegally reproduced Microsoft software programs, Wycoco said.

He said his men began investigating the firm after the bureau received a complaint from the Quisumbing Torres Law office and IP Manila Associates.

Head agent Rafael Z. Ragos of the NBI Intellectual Property Rights Division said the firm was engaged in developing Internet web sites "using unlicensed Microsoft software programs."

Philip c. Tubeza

'Naia 3 means more jobs'

By Norman Bordadora

MIAA ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
ANNIVERSARY

AIRPORT workers protesting the opening of Naia 3 rally outside the Manila International Airport Authority building.

ROGER MARGALLO

THE PHILIPPINE International Air Terminals Co. yesterday said that, contrary to reports, there would be enough jobs for employees of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport at the airport's Terminal 3 when it opens in November.

"In fact, new jobs will be created as a result of Naia 3," said Moises Tolentino, spokesperson of Piatco, the German contractor that built and that would operate Terminal 3 in November.

"I assure our workers in the aviation industry that their jobs are secure," Tolentino added.

Naia workers from the Samahan ng mga Manggagawa ng Paliparan ng Pilipinas were afraid they would lose their jobs with the transfer of Terminal 2 operations to the new terminal starting November.

"The worst that could happen is for some to have to change employers," Tolentino said in a statement. "But definitely, all of them would be absorbed by new companies and new jobs would be waiting for them."

He repeated his company's invitation to the workers to sit down and discuss job requirements for the new terminal.

"Piatco has invited aviation sector workers to a dialogue precisely to work out problems on job dislocations, even if only temporary," he said. "This could be done by informing workers of the new job requirements as well as job movements."

He denied that the company has already made substantial job hiring.

"We prefer experienced people, so obviously the present crop of workers will have first crack," he said. "Moreover, companies offering ground services will continue to require the services of experienced workers."

Tolentino also expressed gratitude to Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez for serving as a conduit between Piatco and aviation workers to secure employment for the Naia employees.

In another statement, Miaa General Manager Edgardo Manda also denied that 1,700 Naia employees would lose their jobs because of Terminal 3.

He pointed out that the 1,700 represent the entire workforce of Naia. "Are they saying that not one of the employees will be left once Terminal 3 is operational," he said.

He admitted that the opening of Terminal 3 would affect some workers but that these would not be more than 20, who would not lose their jobs but would only be transferred to other departments.

He also clarified that contrary to reports, Naia management converts unused leaves to cash every year.

Munti City turns 7

MUNTINLUPA City Mayor Jaime R. Fresnedi and Vice Mayor Jo Jay Alcaraz, together with the members of the city council, department heads and employees yesterday led guests and participants in the "Parade of Festivals" to culminate the celebration of February as National Arts Month and to mark the city's seventh cityhood anniversary.

Parade of Festivals was designed to promote culture and tourism in Muntinlupa. Spearheaded by Muntinlupa City's Culture Tourism Officer Marilyn Capati, it featured the city's nine barangays in festivals that depict Muntinlupa's customs, traditions, progress and development.

Street dancing in colorful costumes and a float parade converged at the Muntinlupa City Hall quadrangle for a "showdown."

Muntinlupa's 1st district is composed of Barangays Tunasan chaired by Manny Solomon, Poblacion chaired by Alex Diaz, Putatan chaired by Pablo Salamat, and Bayanan chaired by Pete Metrillo.

Muntinlupa's second district is composed of Alabang chaired by Ahyee Gonzaga, Cupang chaired by Artemio Simundac, Buli chaired by Gavino Rongavilla, Sucat chaired by Epifanio Salvador, and Ayala Alabang chaired by Oscar Antiquera.

DOJ urged to resolve petition on girl's rape-slay

By Nelson F. Flores

THE MARIKINA City council yesterday urged the Department of Justice to immediately resolve a petition seeking the prosecution of all those involved in last year's rape and killing of 9-year-old Ma. Cristina Suyo.

In a two-page resolution, Vice Mayor Marion Andres and Councilor Thaddeus Antonio Santos Jr. also asked the DOJ to transfer the venue of the preliminary investigation and to ask assistant city prosecutor Nestor Gapuzan and chief city prosecutor Loreto Aceja to inhibit themselves from further prosecuting the case.

Andres said that last Oct. 21, the city prosecutor's office issued a resolution absolving all those involved in the Suyo rape-slaying case except for Melvin Arrazola, who corroborated the physical evidence to warrant probable cause against all the other respondents.

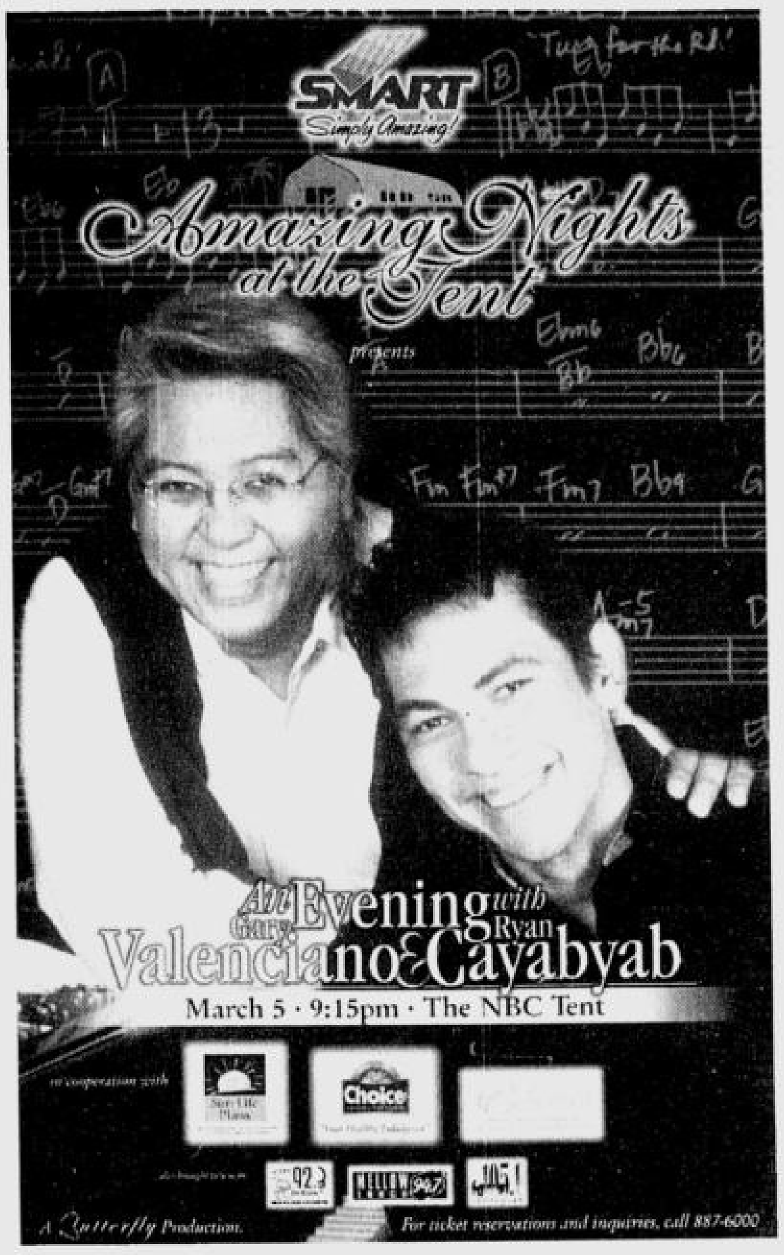
Arrazola, however, later changed his confession, saying that he alone committed the crime, Andres said. This prompted the victim's father to file a motion for reconsideration and for transfer of venue. The motion is still pending before the DOJ.

Suyo, a grade school pupil, was raped and repeatedly stabbed last Oct. 5. Her body, wrapped in a plastic bag, was found in an open canal near the Arrazola residence in Barangay Marikina Heights in Marikina City.

Blood trails led lawmen right into the doorsteps of the Arrazola house, where the girl's bloodied underwear, sandals and shorts were found.

Confronted with the evidence, Melvin Arrazola admitted his crime. He initially implicated his friend Ferdinand Miranda as an accomplice but he later retracted this.

Police also implicated the suspect's uncle Cesar Arrazola, 51; and cousins Noel Arrazola, 20; Rizaldy Arrazola, 22; Claro Arrazola, 41; and nephew Ritchel Miranda but they were released by the local city prosecutor.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* BRICANYL EXPT SYR 60ML	110.00	104.50
Zafirlukast		
* ACCOLATE TAB 20MG	29.00	27.50
ANTIBIOTICS		
(Tab) Sulfadiazine 410mg, trimethoprim 90mg (Fte Tab) Sulfadiazine 820mg, trimethoprim 180mg (Susp) Sulfadiazine 205mg, trimethoprim 45mg		
* TRIGLOBE FTE TAB180MG/820MG	46.00	43.75
* TRIGLOBE SUSP 60ML	184.75	175.50
* TRIGLOBE TAB 90/410MG	26.90	25.50
VITAMINS		
Colecalciferol 100iu, nicotinamide 8.3 mg, d-panthenol 3.33mg, vits A palmitate 1500iu, B1 8.33mg, B12 8.33ug, B2 4.16mg, B6 1.67mg, vit C 83.33mg		
ENERVON C PLUS 120ML	79.50	75.50
ENERVON C PLUS 250ML	149.50	142.00
ENERVON C PLUS 500ML	254.50	241.75
ENERVON C PLUS 60ML	45.00	42.75

VITAMINS	Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
Ca-glycerophosphate 12.5mg, Fe 15mg, 1-lysine HCl 12.5mg, Mg gluconate 4mg, nicotinamide 12.5mg, vits A 2500iu, B1 10mg, B12 50ug, B2 1.25mg, B6 5mg, D3 200iu		
NUTROPLEX WIRON/LYSINE SYR 120ML	89.25	84.75
NUTROPLEX WIRON/LYSINE SYR 250ML	162.50	154.25
NUTROPLEX WIRON/LYSINE SYR 60ML	49.75	47.25
Dicalcium phosphate 200mg, glutamic acid 325mg, thiamine HCl 5mg, vit B12 10ug		
GLUTAPHOS TAB 10X10STRIPS	4.40	4.00
Vit. E		
MYRA 300-E CAP	6.55	6.25
Vit A, B Complex, vit C, D, E		
TIKI-TIKI PLUS15ML	29.75	28.25
TIKI-TIKI PLUS 30ML	42.75	40.60
TOPICAL CORTICOSTEROIDS		
Fluocinonide		
* LIDEMOL CR 0.05PC 10G	244.25	232.00
* LIDEMOL CR 0.05PC 5G	154.00	146.25
* LIDEX CR 0.05PC 5G	149.00	141.50
* LIDEX OINT 0.05PC 5G	149.00	141.50
Fluocinolone acetonide		
* SYNALAR 10 CR 5G	129.75	123.25
* SYNALAR 25 CR 5G	146.25	139.00
* SYNALAR 25 OINT 5G	146.25	139.00
* SYNALAR HP CR 0.2PC 5G	220.00	209.00
* SYNALAR-10 OINT 5G	136.75	129.90
EAR ANTISEPTICS W/ CORTICOSTEROIDS		
Fluocinolone acetonide 0.025%, neomycin sulfate 3.5mg, polymyxin B sulfate 10,000iu		
* SYNALAR OTIC SOL 5ML	153.75	146.00

ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES	Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
Desogestrel 150ug, ethinyloestradiol 30ug, (plus 7 small, inert tabs)		
* MARVELON TAB 150MG 28	166.00	157.75
ANTI-INFECTIVES W/ CORTICOSTEROIDS		
Neo-Synalar 10 Fluocinolone acetonide 0.01%, neomycin 0.5%. Neo-Synalar 25 Fluocinolone acetonide 0.025%, neomycin 0.5%.		
* NEO SYNALAR 10 CR 5G	141.75	134.50
* NEO SYNALAR 25 CR 5G	154.00	146.25
Fluocinonide 0.5g, gramicidin 0.25mg, neomycin sulfate 3.5mg, nystatin 100,000 u		
* LIDEX NGN CR 5G	160.75	152.75
CORTICOSTEROID HORMONES		
Prednisone		
* PREDNISONE-ORGANON TAB 5MG	2.60	2.45
OTHER DERMATOLOGICALS		
Minoxidil		
* REGROE TOP LOT 3PC 30ML	394.50	355.00
* REGROE TOP LOT 3PC 60ML	741.75	668.50
* REGROE TOP LOT 5PC 120ML	1,834.25	1,650.75
* REGROE TOP LOT 5PC 30ML	558.90	503.00
* REGROE TOP LOT 5PC 60ML	1,043.00	938.75
* REGROE TOP LOT 5% 120ML VPCK	1,834.25	1.650.75
* REGROE TOP LOT 5% MAX 120ML	2,018.00	1,816.25
* REGROE TOP LOT 5% MAX 30ML	615.00	553.50
* REGROE TOP LOT 5% MAX 60ML	1,148.00	1,033.25
THYROID PREPARATIONS		
l-levothyroxine Na.		
* THYRAX DUOTAB 100MCG	6.65	6.25
* THYRAX DUOTAB 150MCG	10.85	10.25
* THYRAX DUOTAB 25MCG	2.90	2.75

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NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1 SHALLOW HAL
2 ALI
3 13 GHOST
4 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
5 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
6 GOT 2 BELIEVE
7 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
8 IKAW LAMANG . . .

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 13 GHOST
4 SHALLOW HAL
5 ALI
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .
7 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 RAT RACE
9 GOT 2 BELIEVE
10 BATAS NG LANSANGAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
3 RAT RACE
4 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
6 GOT 2 BELIEVE
7 13 GHOST
8 GOT 2 BELIEVE
9 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
10 BLACK HAWK DOWN
11 ALI
12 SHALLOW HAL

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 SHALLOW HAL
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
4 13 GHOSTS
5 KATE & LEOPOLD
6 ALI
7 GOT 2 BELIEVE
8 RAT RACE
9 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
10 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
11 IKAW LAMANG . . .
12 GOT 2 BELIEVE

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 ALI
3 13 GHOST
4 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 SHALLOW HAL
6 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
7 RAT RACE
8 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
9 GOT 2 BELIEVE
10 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
11 GOT 2 BELIEVE
12 IKAW LAMANG . . .

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 ALI
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
4 GOT 2 BELIVE
5 GOT 2 BELIVE
6 SHALLOW HAL
7 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 13 GHOSTS
9 CLOSED
10 CLOSED
11 CLOSED
12 CLOSED

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 SHALLOW HAL
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 GOT 2 BELIEVE
5 RAT RACE
6 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
7 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
8 13 GHOSTS
9 ALI
10 IKAW LAMANG . . .

SM CITY CEBU
2313870

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 FROM HELL
3 THE OTHERS
4 RIDING IN CARS . . .
5 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .
7 GOT 2 BELIEVE
8 ALI

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 CORKY ROMANO
2 CLOSED
3 FROM HELL
4 IKAW LAMANG . . .
5 GOT 2 BELIEVE
6 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
7 CLOSED
8 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
3 FROM HELL
4 GOT 2 BELIEVE
5 IKAW LAMANG . . .
6 BATAS NG LANSANGAN

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 13 GHOSTS
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
4 ALI

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1 ALI
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 GOT 2 BELIEVE

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 13 GHOSTS
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 GOT 2 BELIEVE
4 ALI

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 FROM HELL
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 ALI
4 MARSHALL DICK
5 GOT 2 BELIEVE
6 RIDING IN CARS

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4
SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4
SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City

1
2
SOON TO OPEN!
2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

6389781-85

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ALI

starring WILL SMITH

OPENS ON MARCH 1, FRIDAY!

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS) GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 (SDDS) GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 GOLD (DTS) SHALLOW HAL
5 GOLD (DOLBY) ALI
6 GOLD (SDDS) 13 GHOSTS
7 GOLD (DOLBY) ALI
8 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
9 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
10 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1 GOT 2 BELIEVE
2
3 (DTS) BATAS NG LANSANGAN
4 SHALLOW HAL
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA 2000
(Pasay) tel 833.3274

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 13 GHOSTS
3 GOT 2 BELIEVE

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) 13 GHOSTS
5 HINOG SA PILIT

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 HINOG SA PILIT
3 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
4 GOT 2 BELIEVE
5 ALI
6 13 GHOSTS
7 RESERVE
8 RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1 13 GHOSTS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 THE OTHERS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1 RESERVE
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1 GOT 2 BELIEVE
A BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY) BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2
3
4 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
5 GOT 2 BELIEVE
6 GOT 2 BELIEVE
7 (DTS) SHALLOW HAL
8 (SDDS) 13 GHOSTS
9 (DOLBY) ALI

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
4 (SDDS) GOT 2 BELIEVE
5 GOT 2 BELIEVE
6 (DOLBY) ALI
7 (DTS) 13 GHOSTS
8 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
9 HINOG SA PILIT

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
4 GOT 2 BELIEVE
5 (SDDS) 13 GHOSTS
6 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
7 (DOLBY) ALI
8 HINOG SA PILIT

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 (DTS) 13 GHOSTS
4 ALI
5 (SDDS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson DARK DANCER
Lords GOT 2 BELIEVE
Jennet

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 13 GHOSTS

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3 BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 13 GHOSTS
3 RESERVE
4 GOT 2 BELIEVE
5 ALI

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 13 GHOSTS
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 RESERVE

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 HUSTLER

Berma
tel 879.2029

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 GOT 2 BELIVE
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 (DTS) 13 GHOSTS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 ALI
2 (DTS) GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 (DOLBY) 13 GHOSTS
4 BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 (DOLBY) 13 GHOSTS
3 (DTS) GOT 2 BELIEVE
4 BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 (DOLBY) GOT 2 BELIEVE
4 (DTS) FROM HELL

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
3 GOT 2 BELIEVE
4 (DTS) 13 GHOSTS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 (DTS) 13 GHOSTS
4 HINOG SA PILIT
5 ALI

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 13 GHOSTS

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1 13 GHOSTS
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 GOT 2 BELIEVE

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 KAULAYAW

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1 GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 (DTS) BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 HINOG SA PILIT
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 FROM HELL
4 GOT 2 BELIEVE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 (DTS) BATAS NG LANSANAGAN
4 BATAS NG LANSANAGAN

***Movies are subject to change without prior notice**

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

THX
CMG INTERNATIONAL

PREMIERE CINEMA THX NOW SHOWING

THIR13EN GHOSTS

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS
NOW SHOWING

galleria
632-9115-16 /633-7641 loc. 979

1 THX SHALLOW HAL
2 ALI
3 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
4 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 GOT 2 BELIEVE
6 13 GHOSTS
7 RAT RACE
8 VANILLA SKY
9 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
10 IKAW LAMANG . . .

ermita
536-7809 to 12

1 GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 ALI
3 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
4 13 GHOSTS
5 SHALLOW HAL
6 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
7 BATAS NG LANSANGAN

metro east -PASIG
682-8193 / 8080

1 SHALLOW HAL
2 13 GHOSTS
3 GOT 2 BELIEVE
4 ALI
5 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
6 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
7 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 IKAW LAMANG . . .

novaliches
935-2929 to 30

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 RAT RACE
3 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
4 ALI
5 SHALLOW HAL
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .
7 GOT 2 BELIEVE
8 13 GHOSTS

imus
(046) 471-8188

1 GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 ALI
4 13 GHOSTS
5 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
6 BATAS NG LANSANGAN

bacolod
(034) 441-0458 / 0459

1 KATE & LEOPOLD
2 THE OTHERS
3 IKAW LAMANG . . .
4 VANILLA SKY
5 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
6 CORKY ROMANO

iloilo
(033) 336-8077 / 8078

1 FROM HELL
2 CORKY ROMANO
3 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
4 GOT 2 BELIEVE
5 KATE & LEOPOLD
6 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

star mills-
San Fernando, PAMPANGA

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 GOT 2 BELIEVE
4 GOT 2 BELIEVE
5 FROM HELL
6 FROM HELL

malabon citisquare-
soon to open.

ALI
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@
GALLERIA
THX
MAR. 1-2, 2002
11:00pm.

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MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Impersonators . . .

From page A27

most effective end up as contestants.

Hiyas ng Maynilad

THE INTRAMUROS Evenings performing arts series features the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila's Hiyas ng Maynilad Dance Company in "Kulturescope IV" at 6:30 p.m. today, March 1 at the Baluarte de San Diego Gardens, Sa. Lucia st., Intramuros. The PLM Rondalla and Student Choral Society will provide live music.

'Probe Team' exhibit

TO CELEBRATE its fruitful years of broadcast journalism, "The Probe Team" is holding its first-ever exhibit (until March 2) at Star Mall on Edsa corner Shaw blvd., Mandaluyong City. On exhibit are some of the images documented by the show in the last 14 years. Captured in stills and on video, the documentation gives viewers an idea of the news behind the news.

From March 20 to 28, the exhibit moves to Metropolis Hall in Alabang. And, from May 1 to 31, it may be viewed at Café Papemelroti on Roces Ave., QC.

'Many Happy Returns'

TOSHIHIRO Tenma's film, "Many Happy Returns" (**Kyoso Tanjou**) will have an in 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6 at Cinema 1, Shangri-La Plaza, Edsa corner Shaw blvd., Mandaluyong City. The film opens Eiga Sai 2002: The Lighter Side of Japan, a festival of contemporary Japanese films.

The film is based on the novel by **Beat Takeshi**, one of Japan's most popular comedians and film directors. He wrote this story at the start of Japan's "new religious boom," a period when young Japanese experiencing a sense of emptiness, joined less-established religions in large numbers.

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
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CINEMA		
1	SHALLOW HAL	12:10 / 2:35 / 5:00 / 7:25 / 9:50 P 13
2	THIRTEEN GHOST	12:50 / 3:05 / 5:20 / 7:35 / 10:00 R 18

Matinee: P80.00 - Screenings before 5:00pm, Monday thru Friday (Free Seating).
Reserved Seating: P120.00 - After 5:00pm, Saturday, Sunday, Holidays.
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ALIKABOK (A Musical Musical) February 28, 2002 3:00 PM/ MAR. 1- 3:00 PM/ 8:00 PM/ MAR. 2 - 10:00 AM/ 3:00 PM/ 8:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS CALL :

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

RAT RACE - GP 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40	13 GHOST - R 18 11:00, 1:00, 3:16, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	SHALLOW HAL - P 13 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:40
MOTHMAN PROPHECIES - P 13 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40	GOT 2 BELIEVE 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45	ALI - P13 10:50, 1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 10:50

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

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G1 Rated GP Great Price (GLORIETTA 1)	G4 (GLORIETTA 4)		GB1 Ad Film (GREENBELT 1)	ATC (ALABANG TOWN CENTER)
1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN	1 GOT 2 BELIEVE	4 THE GOLDEN BOWL	1 SALSA (Exclusive Screening)	1 ALI THX
2 13 GHOSTS	2 SHALLOW HAL	5 RAT RACE	2 ALI	2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 ALI	3 ALI THX GUARANTEED SEATS	6 13 GHOSTS	3 GOT 2 BELIEVE	3 13 GHOSTS
4 GOT 2 BELIEVE		7 THE MOTHMAN PROPHECIES	4 Onstage ILLUSIONE FEB. 22, 23 & MARCH 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16	4 THE MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
				5 SHALLOW HAL

The Ayala Malls Events
THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

MAKATI

WEEK OF FEB. 28 TO MARCH 6

ISUZU CAR EXHIBIT
An exhibit featuring the latest Isuzu models
Glorietta Activity Center
Until March 3, 2002

BPI 27th APPLIANCE MADNESS: HOT SUMMER DAZE HEATWAVE
An appliance madness.

Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala Mall Lower Level, Edsa Mall, Makati Mall
March 6 to 24, 2002

ALABANG

10 to 10 DOUBLE WEEKEND SALE
March 1 to 3 and March 15 to 17, Mallwide
Enjoy up to 70% discount in over 100 participating stores!

Per DTI - NCR Permit # A2-0065, series of 2002

RIDE TO TOWN & LOAD A CELL PROMO
March 1, 2, 3, 15, 16 and 17
Ride a jeep, FX and / or bus at any of the Alabang Town Center Terminals. Present the trip ticket and attach to receipt/s worth P300 in any of the Alabang Town Center establishments (dated March 1, 2, 3, 15, 16 & 17) to get a chance to win a 3310 Nokia Cellphone or Globe Call Cards.

Per DTI-NCR Permit # A2-0068, series of 2002

JON SANTOS CONCERT
March 2, Activity Center - 6:00 PM

CEBU

EVENTS FOR AYALA CENTER CEBU:

February 25 to March 2, 2002-University of San Carlos Architecture Society presents PORTFOLIO 2002, a showcasing of student's works in Advertising, Painting, Interior Design and Architecture.-EXHIBIT AREA 1.

March 2, 2002- CHEMBLITZ- Inter-school Chemistry Quiz Bowl. An annual event organized by the University of San Carlos-ACTIVITY CENTER 1 PM TO 4 PM.

March 8 to 10, 2002: MURRAY RAINE- Witness a high energy performance of Globe and Rod Puppeteers in Spectacular Costumes. Dazzling puppet characters and award winning caricatures of Tina Turner, Pavarotti, Madonna, Tom Jones, Cher and Royal Family to name just a few. This international event will appeal to the family audience.- ACTIVITY CENTER

Show Schedule is as follows:

March 8, 2002 - 5:30 PM, 6:30 PM, 7:30 PM
March 9, 2002 - 3:30 PM, 5:30 PM, 6:30 PM
March 10 - 11 AM, 4 PM, 6 PM

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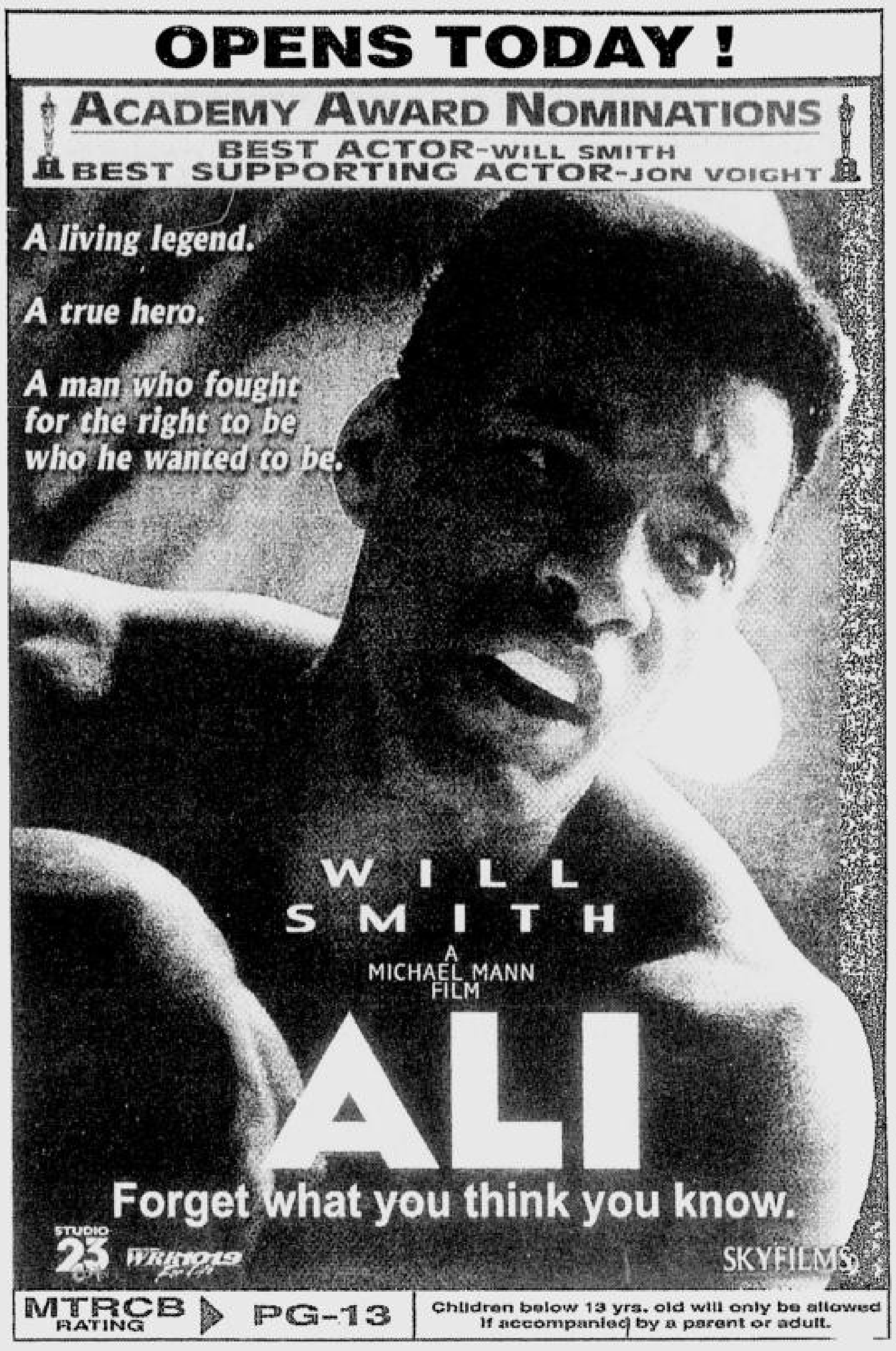

OPENS TODAY !
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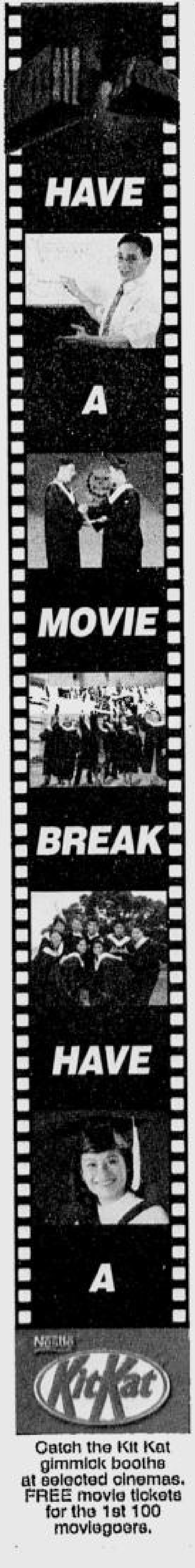

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Mar. 1-31, 2002	Mar. 31, 2002	Apr. 12, 2002 / 3 pm	Figatti eye wear
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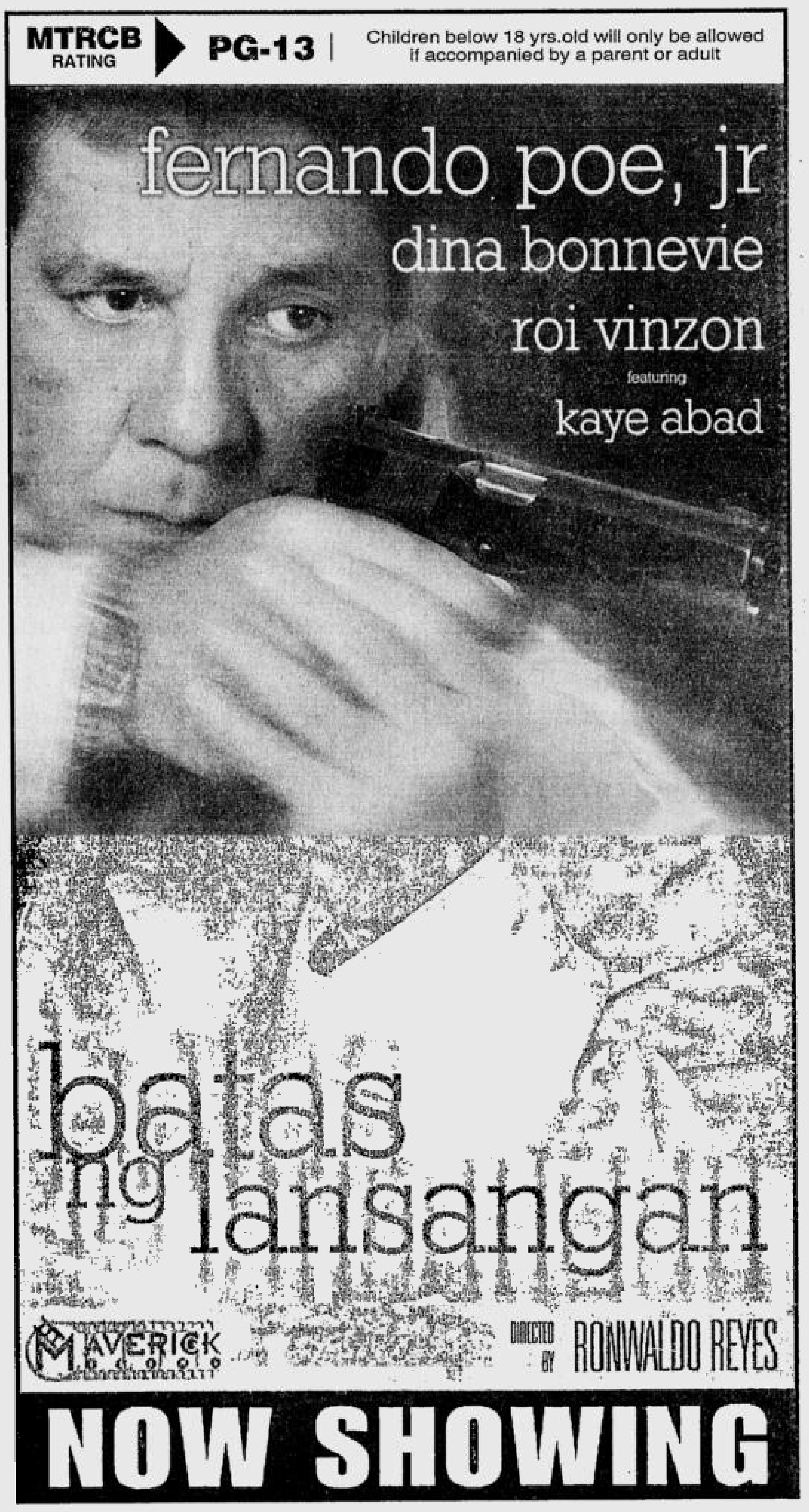

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DIRECTED BY RONWALDO REYES
NOW SHOWING

GMA programs, hosts shine in New York TV Festival

From page A27

comedy-romance and returned to being a romantic lead in "What Women Want," opposite **Helen Hunt**. This reminded me of the love story, "Forever Young," where Mel played a dashing test pilot who volunteered to be frozen as part of a cryogenics experiment, when he thought the girl he loved had died.

Mel is one actor who doesn't limit his capabilities. He even dubbed speaking voices of animated characters in such films as "Chicken Run" and "Pocahontas."

In "We Were Soldiers," Mel returns to the war-drama genre. The film is based on the 1992 bestseller, "We Were Soldiers Once . . . and Young," written by Lt. Gen. **Harold G. Moore** (Ret.) and **Joseph L. Galloway**.

In the $100-million Vietnam epic, producer-director **Randall Wallace** depicts the brutal ambush of teenage US infantrymen by the Vietcong.

According to the production information about the film, the story happened on Nov. 14, 1965 in the Ia Drang Valley, also known as the Valley of Death, where Moore and 400 young troopers from the US Cavalry encountered 2000 enemy soldiers. The said battle is one of the most savage in history.

Galloway, a civilian war correspondent, and Moore endured the brutal battle and vowed to tell the story of the men who fought and died there.

Clearly, Mel is the only superstar in the cast of "We Were Soldiers." His coactors are **Sam Elliott, Greg Kinnear, Chris Klein, Keri Russell** and **Madeline Stowe**, who plays Ms **Julie Moore**.

But Mel's name alone on the marquee is enough to sell the movie and turn it into a box-office hit.

Early this week, E Channel reported that "We Were Soldiers" had a special screening at the White House for Pres. **George W. Bush**.

The film will be shown simultaneously in Manila and the US starting March 6.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	GOT 2 BELIEVE . . .
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	ALI
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	13 GHOST
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	IKAW LAMANG . . .
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	HINOG SA PILIT
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TATARIN / BOLD AFFAIR
ODEON	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
ODEON-2	13 GHOST
ROBEN	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	THE ONE / CAPT CORELLI'S MANDOLIN
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
REMAR	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
REMAR-2	HINOG SA PILIT
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	GOT 2 BELIEVE IN MAGIC
B	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	RAT RACE
CINEMA-2	13 GHOST
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	REBULOSYONARYO
CINEMA-2	HALIK SA AKING LUPA
CINEMA-3	MARSHALL DICK
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	FROM HELL
CINEMA-6	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-7	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON
CINEMA-8	KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	RIDING CARS w/ BOYS
CINEMA-12	VANILLA SKY
CINEMA-14	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON
CINEMA-15	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	RAT RACE
CINEMA-2	13 GHOST
CINEMA-3	SHALLOW HAL
CINEMA-4	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
CINEMA-5	GOT 2 BELIEVE
CINEMA-6	ALI
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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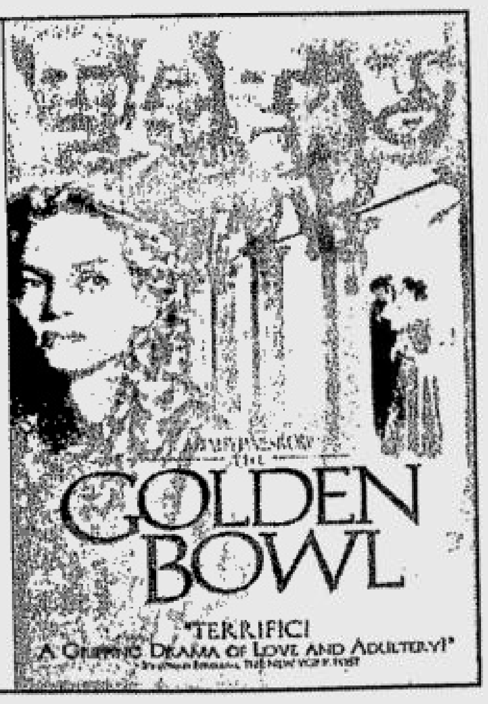
AYALA CINEMAS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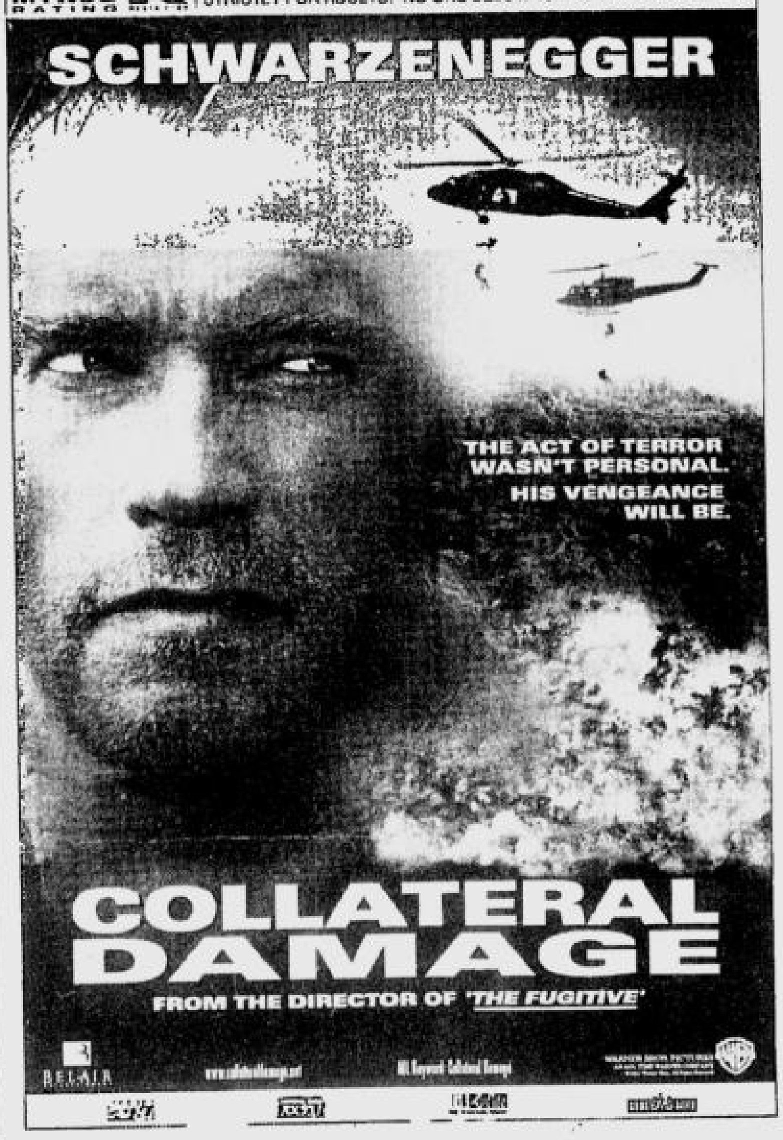
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COLLATERAL DAMAGE
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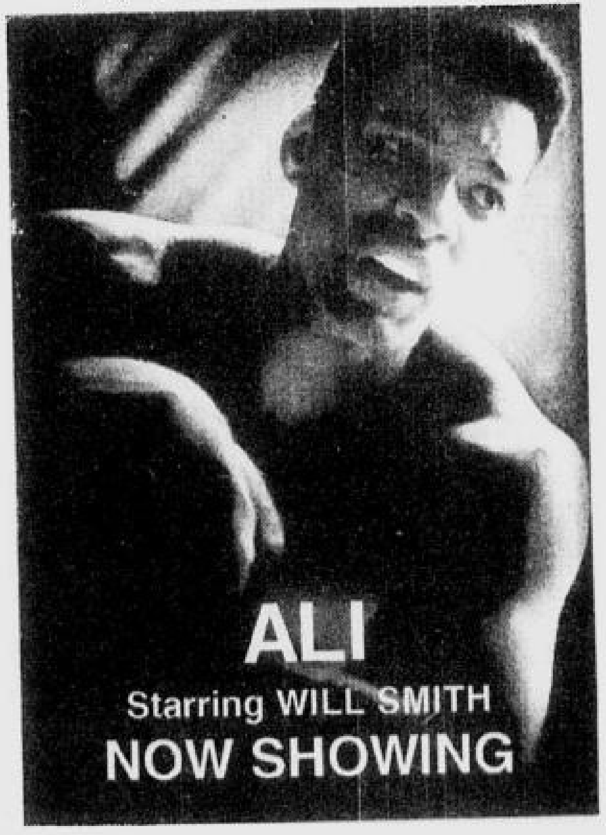

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

More new discoveries on beauty products and fragrances

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

IN STYLE's March issue came out with their "Best Beauty Buys." It was surreal to see that I'd tried so many of the products they'd mentioned. I've made some more new discoveries, so for the beauty product and fragrance junkies out there, here are some additions to my list.

- Body Shop's Cotton White fragrance in the eau de toilette and the moisturizing body spritz. (Available at all Body Shops in Metro Manila malls like Shangri-La Plaza, Robinson's Galleria, SM Megamall and Glorietta). This smells so light and fresh. It's similar to Bulgari's baby scent, but for me it's even more pleasant. I also bought the body wash for my shower.

Layering means that you use the scent's soap, the matching lotion and then cap it off by spraying yourself with the eau de toilette or eau de parfum. Then you can refresh yourself throughout the day with the scent's body spritz. Fragrance layering doesn't overwhelm and at least you're assured that you won't have inadvertently competing "notes."

- Philosophy's "the greatest lover" hydrating microdermabrading scrub (Available in Beauty Bar). I know the importance of exfoliating your skin to get rid of dead skin cells and to help unclog your pores. This is especially important for women who wear foundation on a regular basis, as well as those who are constantly confronted by the city's polluting elements.

The packaging says that it's a one-minute daily facial. You apply the sugary scrub to a clean, dry face (damp skin if you're sensitive) and "lightly massage in a circular motion until scrub dissolves or rolls off."

This scrub works so well because I can actually feel the improved condition of my skin. I've also noticed that my skin doesn't look tired or sallow. There are some facial scrubs that are rough and have left my skin patchy and with a few rashes. "the greatest love" has in its ingredients natural seed oils and aloe extracts that help moisturize the skin, coupled with natural sugars that "freshen, stimulate and gently exfoliate your skin."

I use it every other day, normally before I go to bed, right before I apply my nighttime moisturizer.

- Maybelline's Full n' Soft waterproof mascara (available in almost all department stores and drug stores). This mascara is easy to apply, never clumpy, thickens and lengthens lashes without straightening what you've painstakingly curled and it's very easy to remove.

Normally, with other waterproof mascaras, I need to use three cotton balls soaked in eye make-up remover (I like Lancome's Bi Facil) or 2 Eye-Q's eye make-up remover pads for each eye, but Maybelline's Full 'n Soft wipes off very easily.

The best thing about this mascara is that it never gives you the "Tammy Faye" look, where the mascara starts to resemble spider's legs because the lashes are so clumped together. Lashes don't feel brittle to the touch, they really do stay soft.

- Burt's Beeswax Lifeguard's Choice-weatherproofing lip balm for sun and snow (available in Beauty Bar). Chapped lips aren't only unsightly, they are also a discomfort! Our weather which is normally very warm doesn't dry out our lips, but the change in temperature whenever we go into a building with airconditioning can really dry out our lips, causing them to even peel at times.

This lip balm has a minty, cooling feel and I can really feel that it hydrates my lips and keeps them soft. The added bonus is that lipstick adheres better and is easier to apply with this as a protective base.

The only drawback is when you first apply the lip balm it leaves a white filmy sheen on your lips. If you're not careful about this, people might get the impression that you're about to faint or are anemic.

Impersonators and their signature characters on 'The Weakest Link'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST Feb. 18, "The Weakest Link" and quizmaster **Edu Manzano** had a delightful surprise for the show's regular viewers: that particular telecast had for contestants some of the country's impersonators, not as themselves but as the characters they had made popular on TV.

There was **Jun Urbano** as Mr. Shooli, **Giselle Sanchez** as Rosebang, **Dang Cruz** as a Jolina lookalike, **Allan K** as Nura, **Lenard Obal** as Velma, etc.

As they tried to answer the quiz questions while remaining in character, they came up with funny asides that had the usually deadpan and super-strict Edu in stitches.

But, as the quiz questions got tougher, some impersonations were forgotten as the celebrity contestants focused on just getting their answers right.

Truth to tell, most of the questions were rather easy to answer, lending credence to the observation of some viewers that, when celebrities compete on quiz shows, they are given easier questions to answer, so they don't get embarrassed by coming up with incorrect responses.

Still, mistakes were made on Edu's show, thus resulting in the serial elimination of some of the celebrity contestants and their "signature" characters. That wasn't necessarily a bad thing, especially in the case of the **Lolit Solis** lookalike, who in fact came across more like former QC vice-mayor **Charito Planas**!

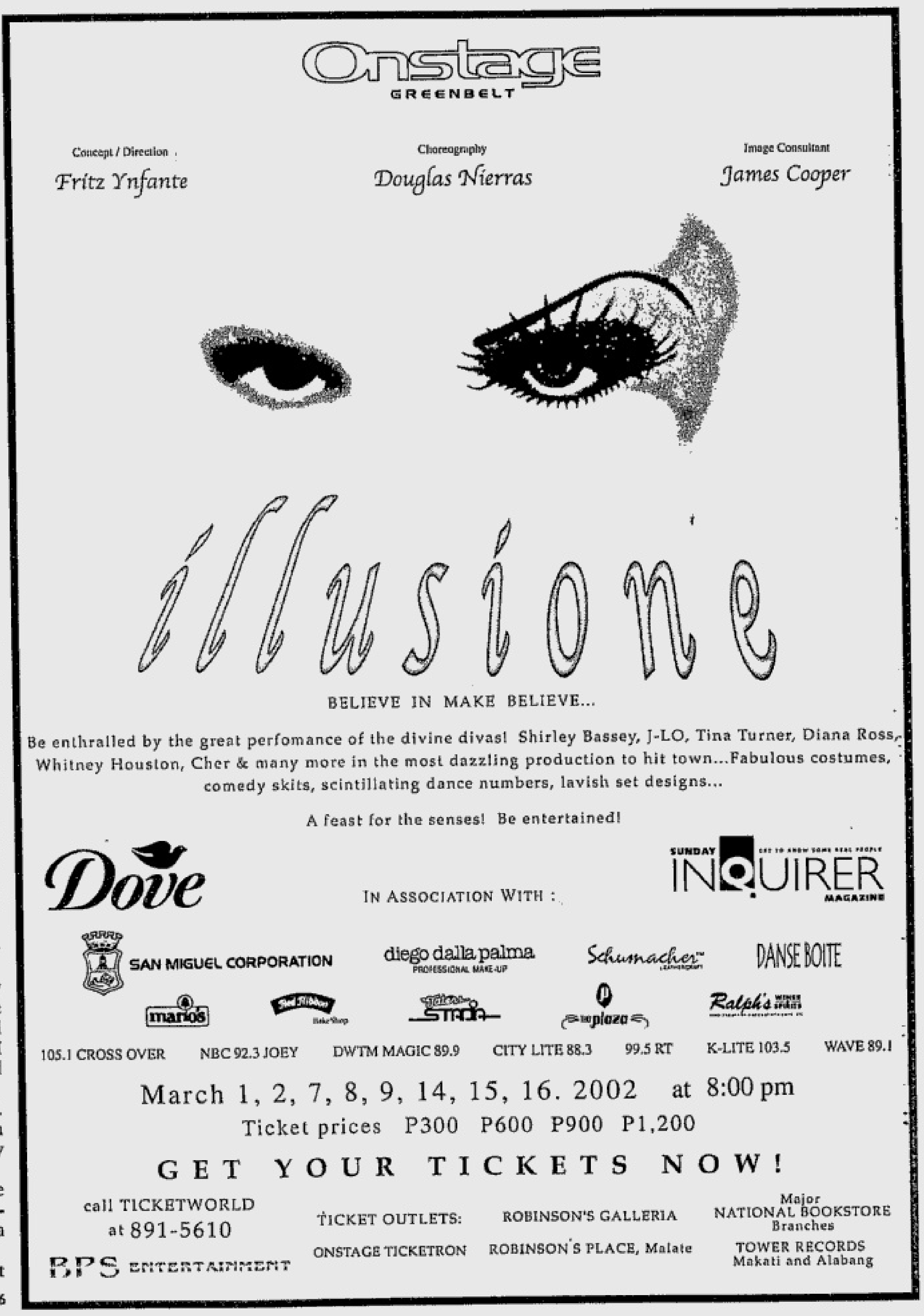
As show biz fate would have it, the last two contestants were Nura and Velma, so the quiz show ended on a high note—in more ways than one.

To make that final casting coup happen, the show had to kick out Rosebang, who was consistently the evening's strongest link.

It was a treat to see Edu finally reduced to giggling and comically making goo-goo eyes at his "former wife," "Velma," who gamely responded in like manner.

Let's have more such pleasant surprises from "The Weakest Link" and other quiz shows. But celebrities should be screened better, so that only the best and

IMPERSONATORS/A25



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BPS ENTERTAINMENT

GMA programs, hosts shine in New York TV Festival

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

CONGRATULATIONS to GMA 7 hosts **Arnold Clavio** and **Vicki Morales** for emerging as finalists in the recent New York TV Festival.

Arnold hosts "Emergency," which made it as finalist for best public affairs program.

Vicki was also a finalist in the social issues category for the "I-Witness" episode, "Sabah."

Howie Severino's report on journalists caught in the crossfire in Southern Mindanao, aired on "The Probe Team," was cited for breaking news coverage.

Che-Che Lazaro bagged the silver medal in the social issues/current affairs category for another "I-Witness" episode, "Bahay na Pula," which documented the triumph of the Filipino comfort women in a war crimes tribunal court in Japan.

GIBSON. Another war hero in "We Were Soldiers"

Even in its entertainment programs and talk shows, GMA proved its excellence.

The Sunday noontime show, "SOP," was finalist in the best variety category, while "Partners Mel and Jay" was cited in the best talk/interview category.

The Mutya ng Pilipinas 2001 pageant was finalist for best variety special.

True-to-life character

MY true love, **Mel Gibson**, breathes life to another real-life hero, **Lt. Gen. Harold G. Moore** in the upcoming war-drama, "We Were Soldiers."

The last time Mel did a true-to-life screen portrayal was in the 1995 award-winning film, "Braveheart," where he played 13th century Scottish avenger **William Wallace**, who led his people in a revolt against the English.

The film earned for him the Oscar best director and best picture trophies.

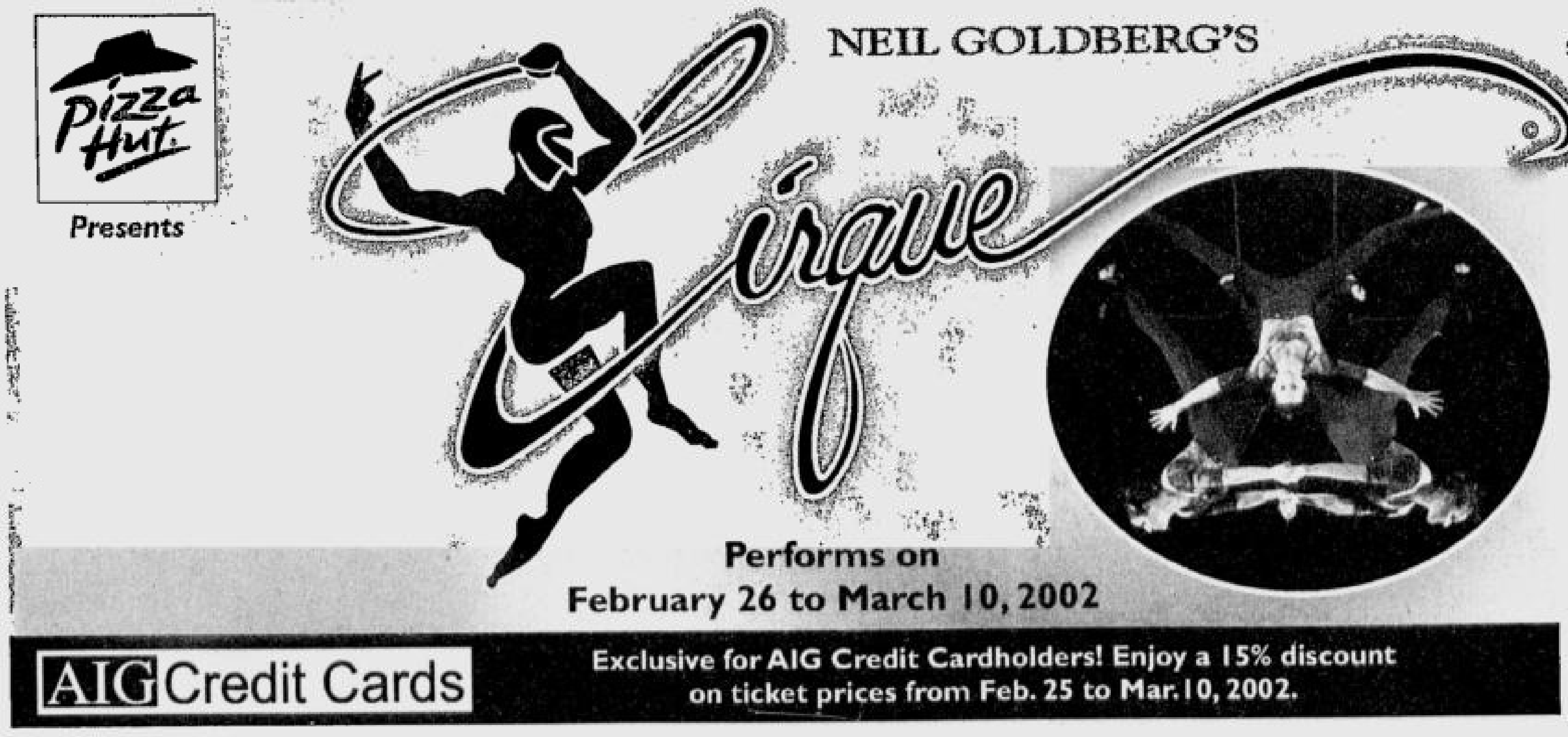
Up to this day, "Braveheart" stands as my favorite Mel Gibson starrer and is also on the list of my all-time favorite movies. Never mind if it's 173 minutes long. Every time I watch it, I never fail to cry at Mel's dying scene at the end of the film.

I always look forward to a Mel Gibson film. I swoon to his characters onscreen, yes, even in "Payback," where he played the tough guy Porter.

I adored him in another war-drama, "The Patriot," where he was 18th century hero **Benjamin Martin**, who led a brave rebel militia into battle against a relentless English Army.

Last year, however, Mel tried to do a light

GMA/ A26



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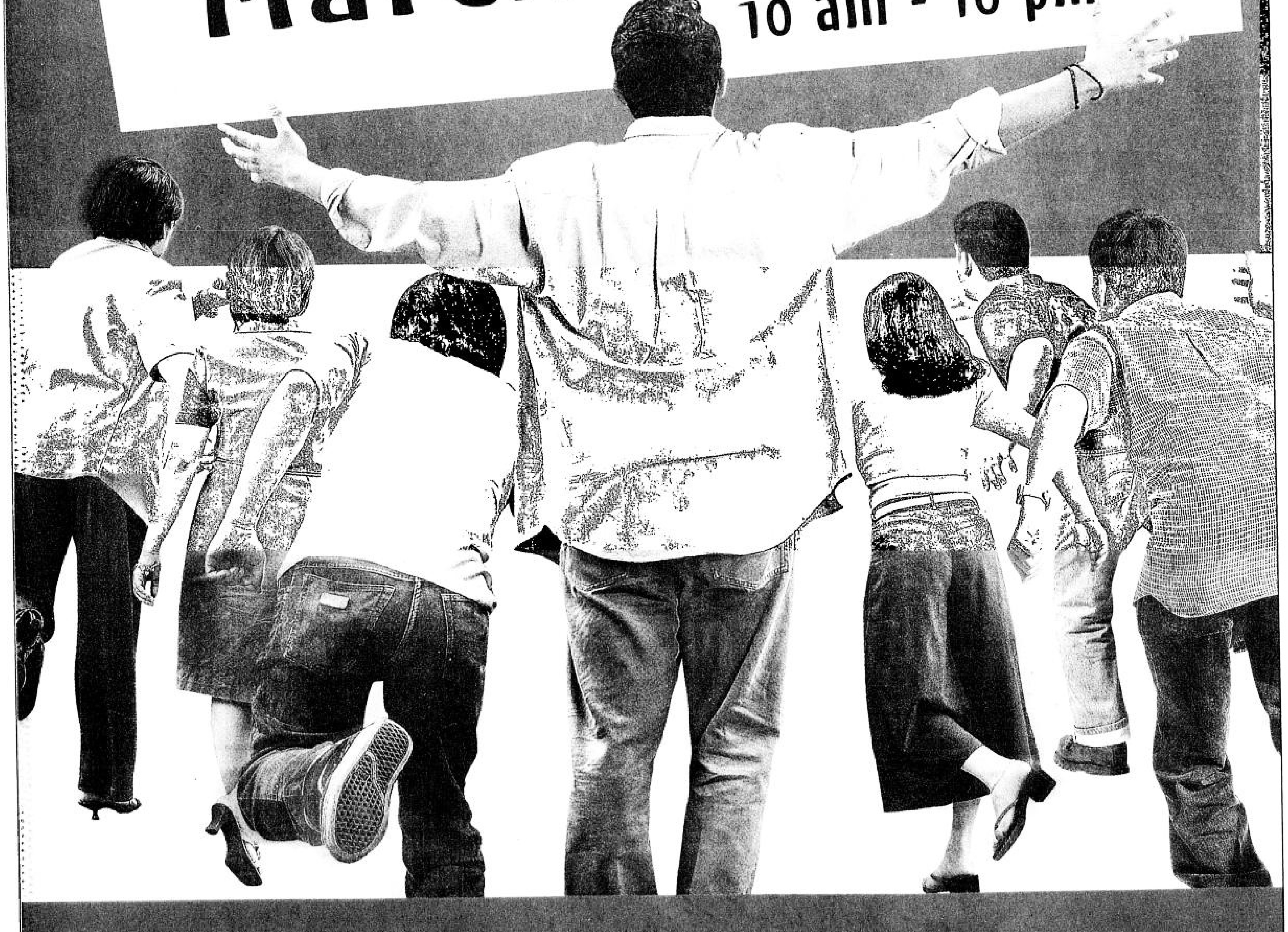

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BUSINESS

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ◉ Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

US firms want to buy P28-B SSS loans

By Clarissa S. Batino

AMERICAN financial giants Cerberus Ltd. and Lehman Brothers are wooing another state pension fund, the Social Security System, to sell part of its P42-billion exposure in the housing sector.

SSS president and CEO Corazon dela Paz said the two US firms were particularly interested in the P28 billion worth of housing loans that the pension fund had extended to the National Home Mortgage and Finance Corp.

Cerberus and Lehman are forming a big asset management company (AMC) with the Government Service Insurance System. The AMC will have an initial fund of about $600 million.

Dela Paz said the two American firms wanted the SSS to join the fund but at this point, she said the plan would have to be carefully studied.

Dela Paz said in an interview after a speech before the Philippine Business Outlook Conference yesterday that the SSS' exposure in NHMFC could reach P35 billion, including the accrued interest.

Of the total exposure to NHMFC, about P9 billion had become non-performing, she noted.

NHMFC is a government firm formed to buy housing loans from banks and sell these in the secondary market. But NHMFC never performed its mandate efficiently and was instead used by the government to become one of its lending arms for mass and socialized housing programs.

Dela Paz stressed, however, that the SSS was not keen on selling the home mortgages at a very deep discount. "If they buy the mortgages at an 80-percent discount, then who would suffer the loss. The SSS would not want to be the one to carry the burden."

If there must be an agency to take the hit, Dela Paz said it should be the housing agency or the housing department that the government wanted to create.

"We are actively exploring creative ways to liquefy our P42 billion in housing mortgages. But we have heard that Lehman and Cerberus are offering a range of 20 to 30 centavos to a peso. Our problem is how to cover the expected losses," Dela Paz said in her speech.

Cerberus and Lehman have committed to invest at least $1 billion each to buy the bad loans of locally operating banks and the housing mortgage of the government.

Dela Paz said that the SSS charter limited its exposure in the housing sector to not more than 35 percent of its portfolio. With an existing exposure of P46.8 billion plus P9 billion for multi-window lending, the SSS housing loans have reached about 34 percent.

As of end-2001, the total assets of the SSS were estimated at P165 billion, or P16 billion less than the previous year's level. Dela Paz said the drop in assets was due to payment of loans and an increased allowance for probable loan losses.

Dela Paz admitted in her speech that the SSS fund would be depleted unless something was done to correct the situation.

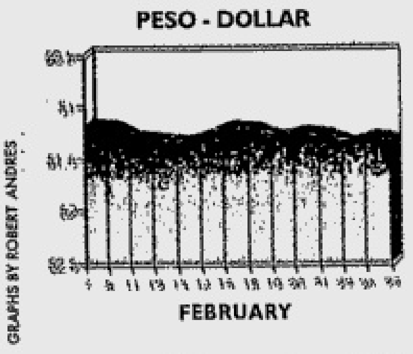
"Our 2002 actuarial projections show that at the rate we are going, SSS shall start dipping into its reserves two years from now and in 2015, funds will run out," she noted.

Dela Paz, however, clarified that the SSS was not pushing to increase the contribution of its 24 million members to cover for the decline in assets. Even before the assets had started to dip, she noted that the SSS had known that an increase in contribution was inevitable as benefits continued to outpace contributions.

"It is difficult to ascertain at this point whether or not these probable losses were due to the excesses of the past, lack of prudence in investments, or justifiable results of market forces and the economic downturn," she said.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P51.22 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 28, 2002

¥133.88 = $1

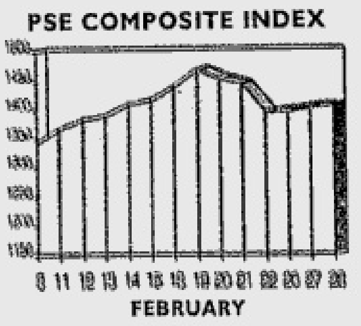
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 28, 2002

GOLD: $296.20/296.70

per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 28, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares edge up



(See stock market report on Page B4)

STOCKS rose yesterday on light interest in selected blue chips, but with no real conviction in the market amid a dearth of fresh leads, traders said.

They added that turnover also slumped with many local fund managers absent, attending a forum on the economy in Makati.

The main composite index ended up 2.52 points, or 0.18 percent, at 1,406.22, well off the intraday high of 1,418.93.

Turnover dropped to P494.1 million from P645.13 million on Wednesday. At the start of extended trading hours on Feb. 20, the market had been recording turnover of about P1 billion.

"People are looking for fresh leads to get back into this market . . . they are happy to sit on recent gains and then cut positions when there is any small rally, that's why the index cannot close at its highs," said United Coconut Planters Bank Trust fund manager Vanessa Lim.

DBS Vickers Securities associate director for sales Enrique Santa Ana said the foreign buying interest seen at the start of the year appeared to have run its course and there were no compelling reasons to push prices up.

Reuters

Greenspan says US set for subdued recovery

WASHINGTON—US Federal Reserve chair Alan Greenspan said yesterday that the United States was pulling out of recession but the recovery would be muted, dampening expectations for a rise in rates.

"Despite the disruptions engendered by the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, the typical dynamics of the business cycle have reemerged and are prompting a firming in economic activity," Greenspan told a House of Representatives panel.

"An array of influences unique to this business cycle, however, seems likely to moderate the speed of the anticipated recovery."

Greenspan was addressing lawmakers after the release of a Federal Reserve semi-annual report forecasting real economic growth of 2.5-3 percent in 2002, measured from the fourth quarter of last year.

Experts said his cautiously optimistic tone suggested Federal Reserve policymakers were willing to hold rates at their current 40-year low of 1.75 percent until they were certain of a broader recovery.

"If growth is actually that sluggish there is no reason to expect the Fed to tighten policy this year," said Merrill Lynch chief economist Bruce Steinberg.

However, Merrill Lynch expected US gross domestic product (GDP) to grow about 4.3 percent this year, he said, which would lead to higher rates in late summer or early fall.

GREENSPAN/ B5

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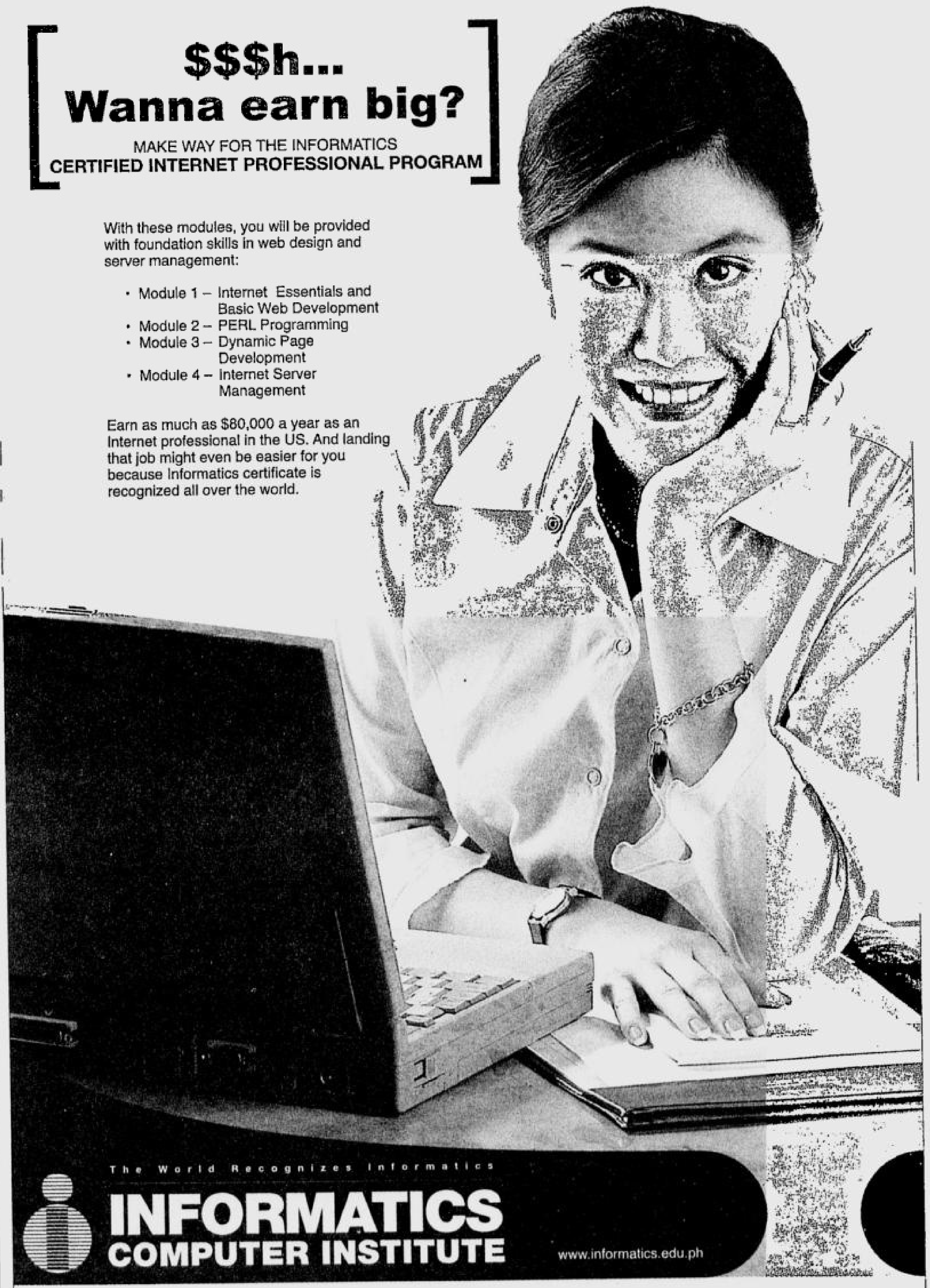

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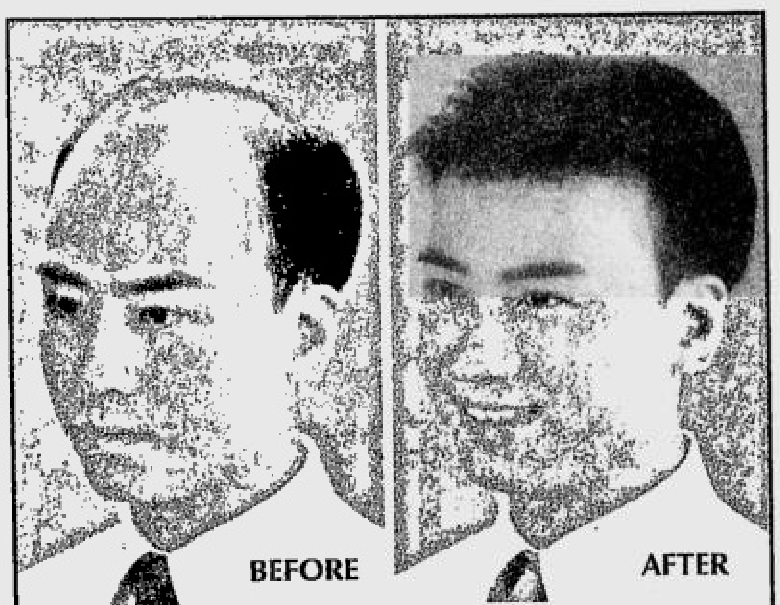

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MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

San Miguel net falls as forecast

By Doris C. Dumlao

SAN Miguel Corp., the country's biggest food and beverage firm, posted an expected decline in net profit in 2001 as costs from major acquisitions ate into its bottom line.

Analysts said the company was poised for a surge in income this year as its acquisitions began contributing significantly. A tie-up with Japan's Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd., approved by shareholders on Wednesday, was also a positive factor.

The company, known internationally for its trademark beer, said yesterday that its 2001 net income was at P6.5 billion, down from the P6.84 billion recurring net profit posted in the previous year.

It said its net income would have been at P7.3 billion without the costs of acquiring a majority stake in Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Corp. and taking over Pure Foods Corp.

"With the acquisitions and their resulting short-term dilutive effect, net income amounted to P6.5 billion against P6.8 billion in 2000," it said.

The company, however, said net sales jumped to P121.6 billion in 2001 from P82.3 billion and that operating income surged to P10.5 billion from P7.9 billion.

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization were at P18.6 billion in 2001, up 44 percent from the previous year, it said.

"The current weakness still lies in its liquor businesses but moving forward, more than half the Ebitda would be coming from the non-alcohol lines," said Martin Enrile, an analyst at ATR Kim Eng Securities.

"My tentative view for 2002, especially with the closure of the Kirin deal, is for them to be approaching P9 billion (net income)," Enrile added.

"This includes full-year contributions from the recent acquisitions—Coke Philippines, Cosmos and Pure Foods."

San Miguel has not yet booked costs from its latest acquisition, the purchase of an 83-percent interest in Cosmos Bottling Corp., the second largest soft drinks manufacturer in the country after Coca-Cola Philippines.

"Redefining the entire soft drinks business will be the main object for the year as the company moves to maximize synergies at all levels," San Miguel said.

The company is still looking for more acquisitions.

Kirin's purchase of a 15-percent stake in San Miguel will add $540 million to its war chest. Company officials said San Miguel would spend $1 billion on acquisitions this year and would announce a major takeover within three months.

SSS to invest part of ₱159-B portfolio in index funds

THE SOCIAL Security System is planning to invest part of its P159-billion portfolio in US index funds.

SSS president Corazon de la Paz said yesterday that the SSS, in deciding to invest in index funds in the United States, wanted to avoid repeating its experience under the Estrada administration wherein it was accused of using its funds to manipulate stocks allegedly held by then President Joseph Estrada and his cronies.

"I am aware that in the past, the SSS has been criticized as being a 'whale in the tub' because of our relative size to the market. We are looking into how this 'whale effect' can be minimized," De la Paz said.

The SSS has been lessening its participation in the local stock market in favor of more stable and relatively less volatile investments elsewhere, she disclosed.

De la Paz said the SSS was considering following the strategy of the California Public Employees' Retirement System (Calpers), the largest US pension fund.

By investing in US index funds, she said, the SSS could invest passively in American equities.

An index fund refers to investments with yields that follow movements of indices like the Dow Jones industrial average.

"If there were expectations in the past for the SSS to support the stock market, the policy now is to give paramount importance to the interest of our members: Will the sale or purchase redound to the welfare of the members?" De la Paz said.

Since she took the helm of the SSS, De la Paz has been advocating a shift from speculative to blue chip stocks. Blue chips are widely regarded as safe investments as they represent companies that consistently report earnings and make conservative business decisions.

Under the Estrada administration, the SSS was tangled in controversies involving its investments in small companies like BW Resources Corp., a medium-size property developer and gaming firm owned by Estrada associate Dante Tan.

The SSS has also been criticized for buying into companies under agreements brokered by Estrada's advisers.

De la Paz reported that half of the SSS' portfolio was currently in development loans to its members, salary loans and housing loans.

Equity investments accounted for 29 percent, while placements in government securities accounted for 17 percent. *Doris C. Dumlao*

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Ayala seeking 90% control of offshore investment unit

By Doris C. Dumlao

AYALA Corp. is bidding for more than 90-percent control of offshore investment holdings unit Ayala International Holdings Ltd. (AIHL), which is listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange, through a tender offer to minority stockholders.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Ayala managing director Rufino Luis Manotok said the company created a new subsidiary that would make the cash offer to acquire all the issued and ordinary shares of AIHL.

He said the new subsidiary, Routledge International Pte. Ltd., would make the tender offer that, however, would be conditional upon it receiving 90 percent or more voting rights of AIHL.

Routledge was incorporated as a wholly owned subsidiary of Ayala International Pte. Ltd., Ayala's Singapore-based subsidiary.

To date, 82.27 percent of AIHL's shares are held by Ambeca Pte. Ltd. and Cottesloe International ltd., both of which are wholly owned by AIPL.

AIHL, for its part, is engaged in property investment, development and trading, with various investments in Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong and Japan. It was acquired by the Ayala group in 1999 with the intention of focusing and facilitating the group's efforts to invest in the region's property markets.

AIHL is intended to be Ayala's regional property vehicle for investments outside the Philippines.

Meralco to tap $30-M loan to pay for equipment

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE MANILA Electric Co. announced yesterday that it has secured a $30-million loan from investment firm Credit Lyonnaise that it plans to use to pay for its imports.

In an interview, company president Jesus Francisco said Meralco was required by its credit agreement with Credit Lyonnaise to buy transformers and other equipment only from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Francisco said the loan would diversify Meralco's funding sources, as it would enable the company to tap guarantees from export credit agencies.

He disclosed that Meralco was unlikely to tap other loans, as it had yet to convince the government to allow it to raise its rates.

Meralco has been seeking a 30-centavo-per-kilowatt-hour increase in its rates since April 2000.

"Creditors ask us questions that are mostly related to our petition," Francisco told reporters. "I can't see how we can go back to the bond market without it being approved."

In another matter, Meralco said it had earmarked about P51 billion for a five-year capital expenditures program covering 2002 to 2006.

DISCLOSURES

OMICO Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 26.

* * *

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. changed its annual stockholders' meeting from the second Tuesday of April to last Monday of June each year. For this year, the meeting will be on June 24.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Savings Bank will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 25 with record date on March 14 to determine stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote during the meeting.

* * *

AJO.Net Holdings Inc. disclosed that its wholly owned subsidiary, **Qnet Communications Inc.** entered into an agreement with **Hewlett Packard Philippines Corp.** to explore opportunities that would address the communication needs of the local market. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, February 28, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	68	68	67.5	68	101,300
China Banking Corp.	580	580	580	580	120
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	3,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	30	31	30	30.5	334,300
First E-Bank Corp.	2.1	2.2	2	2	42,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	214	214	209	212	27,500
Philippine National Bank	68	68	67	67	1,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13	15,000
Security Bank Corp.	19	19.25	19	19.25	17,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	20.5	20.75	19.75	20.25	76,400
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	51,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1295	1295	1295	1295	580
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1045	1045	1035	1045	7,340
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31	32	31	32	23,900
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.69	0.7	0.69	0.69	4,670,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	810	810	795	795	26,040
Ipeople Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.085	0.0875	0.07	0.07	174,900,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	10,000
Piltel	0.49	0.52	0.49	0.49	14,760,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	505	510	500	505	78,320
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.021	43,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	33	33	32.5	32.5	60,100
Manila Electric Co. B	48	48.5	48	48	1,605,800
Petron Corp.	1.86	1.92	1.86	1.9	5,787,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.93	0.93	0.92	0.92	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.14	508,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.85	2.9	2.7	2.7	4,524,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	30,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	5,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.175	0.175	0.16	0.16	120,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	6.4	6.6	6	6	8,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.66	0.66	140,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	20,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	18,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	258,200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	23.5	24	23.5	23.75	130,600
RFM Corp.	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.46	3,370,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48.5	48	48	429,200
San Miguel Corp. B	63.5	64.5	63	63	417,400
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.6	3,573,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.04	2.04	2	2.02	5,505,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.8	0.8	420,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	1,450,000
APC Group Inc.	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.17	3,500,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	4,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.35	0.36	0.34	0.34	590,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	5,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.84	0.84	10,710,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	50,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.34	0.36	0.32	0.32	2,320,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	660,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.115	0.115	2,150,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.04	354,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	33	33	32	33	1,091,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.17	0.17	750,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	20,000
Ionics Inc.	8	8	7.9	7.9	124,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	70,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,500,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.82	0.84	0.82	0.84	580,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	20,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.55	0.6	0.55	0.6	310,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.3	6,190,000
Music Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	1,060,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	110,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	80,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.3	1,110,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	10,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1	1	1	1	20,000
Metro Alliance Holdings-B	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	70,000
Pryce Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1,100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.5	14.75	14.5	14.75	118,500
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.51	0.51	6,340,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.61	0.61	410,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.43	0.43	850,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	31.5	32.5	31.5	32	163,500
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	775	775	775	775	880
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	20,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	800	805	800	805	950
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	263,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,400
Philweb.Com,Inc -Warrants	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	20,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.9	7	6.9	6.9	3,646,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	3,530,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.5	0.53	0.5	0.52	86,890,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	2,460,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.34	2.36	2.3	2.3	3,759,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.42	2,610,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	3,876,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.0925	0.0925	0.09	0.09	8,000,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.2	0.2	170,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.042	0.042	0.04	0.04	28,400,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.2	940,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	530,000
Omico Corp.	0.0046	0.0046	0.0044	0.0046	22,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.019	3,500,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	850,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.021	2,100,000
Interport Res.	0.0044	0.0046	0.0044	0.0046	5,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.006	68,000,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	6,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.08	0.08	0.0775	0.0775	900,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.25	0.25	0.2	0.21	330,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,097,540	327,739,090.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	595,937,290	349,905,305.00
PRO	114,943,000	107,650,600.00
Mining	56,220,000	1,846,200.00
OIL	83,330,000	724,200.00
GRAND TOTALS:	851,527,830	787,865,395.00

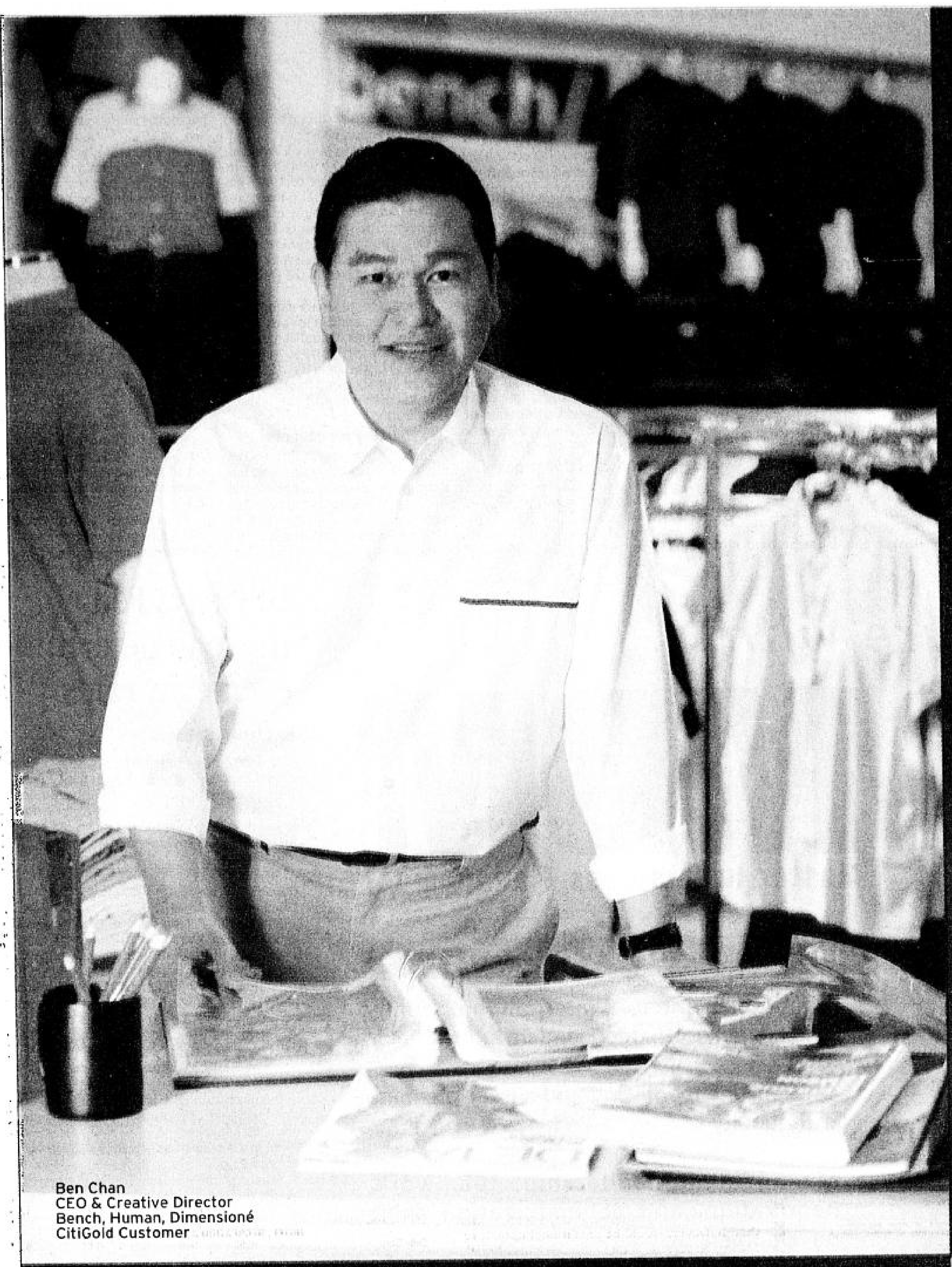
	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	564.77	UP 1.29
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,919.11	UP 3.46
PRO	623.39	DOWN 0.56
Mining	1,356.28	DOWN 20.77
OIL	1.99	DOWN 0.01
All Shares Index	744.67	UP 4.44
Composite	1,406.22	UP 2.52

NO. OF ADVANCES: 33; NO. OF DECLINES: 32; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 49; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 114; NO. OF TRADES: 2,936

CURRENCIES

Feb. 28, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.154734	1.000000	51.3540
Japan	Yen	0.008603	0.007450	0.3826
United Kingdom	Pound	1.640416	1.420600	72.9535
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.148064	0.128223	6.5848
Switzerland	Franc	0.677423	0.586648	30.1267
Canada	Dollar	0.718029	0.621813	31.9326
Singapore	Dollar	0.629112	0.544811	27.9782
Australia	Dollar	0.595531	0.515730	26.4848
Bahrain	Dinar	3.063119	2.652661	136.2248
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.307930	0.266667	13.6944
Brunei	Dollar	0.628085	0.543922	27.9326
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000098	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.026375	0.022841	1.1730
UAE	Dirham	0.314470	0.272331	13.9853
Korea	Won	0.000876	0.000759	0.0390
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.866000	44.4726
Brazil	Real	0.485182	0.420168	21.5773
Denmark	Kroner	0.134561	0.116530	5.9843
India	Rupee	0.023731	0.020551	1.0554
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.303918	0.263193	13.5160
Mexico	New Peso	0.127020	0.109999	5.6489
New Zealand	Dollar	0.483841	0.419006	21.5176
Norway	Kroner	0.129703	0.112323	5.7682
Pakistan	Rupee	0.019277	0.016694	0.8573
South Africa	Rand	0.101470	0.087873	4.5126
Sweden	Kroner	0.026485	0.022936	1.1779
Syria	Pound	0.032983	0.028563	1.4668
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.001102	0.000954	0.0490
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001150	0.000996	0.0511



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Stealing company property

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

THE LAW is well-settled that "fraud" or "willful breach by the employee of the trust reposed on him by his employer" is a just cause to terminate employment. Labor jurisprudence is well-settled, reaffirming consistently the prerogative of employers to dismiss employees based on theft of company property.

Considering, however, that in cases of dismissal it is the very source of livelihood of workers that is at stake, the Supreme Court advises employers to go slow on firing employees. They have to make sure that there is cause and there is due process.

No intent to gain, no theft

In one case, the Supreme Court did not find any justification to affirm the validity of a worker's dismissal even if the worker admitted having brought out some company properties. There was no intent to gain. There was no theft.

This was Cecilio de los Santos and Bumaca (Bukid Manggagawa ng Camara) vs. NLRC, et al., (GR 121327) decided on Dec. 20, 2001. He brought out the electric cables worth between P50 and P100 to be transferred to another lot upon the instruction of the scrap-in-charge after the latter declared the cables to be scrap.

Illegal dismissal

The labor arbiter found that the dismissal was illegal. He ordered the company to reinstate the employee to his former position without loss of seniority rights. He also directed the company to pay him full back wages and other benefits, plus attorney's fees.

The NLRC reversed the arbiter. In its decision, the NLRC remanded the case to the arbiter so that the latter could thresh out the issue of employer-employee relationship. The company earlier raised the defense that the workers' true employer was a service agency that assigned him to respondent firm.

High court: Illegal dismissal

The high court, in turn, reversed the NLRC and sustained the labor arbiter. The court found that it was the scrap-in-charge who handed the box of cables to the worker. It was held that "no shred of evidence can show that De los Santos was aware of its contents."

The scrap-in-charge was charged with qualified theft, but the case was dismissed by the prosecutor for lack of evidence. Thus, the court concluded that the worker could not be held more guilty than the scrap-in-charge.

Janitor not a confidential job

No legal dismissal can occur if the basis is loss of confidence and the worker being charged does not occupy a position of trust. While all employment involves confidence, the law requires that loss of confidence, as a just cause, can be invoked only if the worker occupies a "position of trust."

Thus: "It must be stressed that loss of confidence, as a just cause of dismissal, is based on the premise that the employee holds a position of trust and confidence, as when he is entrusted with responsibility involving delicate matters." The court succinctly declared that the task of a janitor did not fall squarely under this category.

No denial of due process

The Supreme Court was not persuaded by the company's pretension that it was denied due process by the arbiter. There could be no such denial for the company voluntarily appeared before the arbiter and filed its position paper.

Anent the attempt to brandish technicalities as a shield, the court held: "Administrative tribunals exercising quasi-judicial powers are unfettered by the rigidity of certain procedural requirements. In labor cases, a punctilious adherence to stringent technical rules may be relaxed in the interest of the workingman."

The Supreme Court chided the NLRC: "A remand of the case, as the NLRC envisions, would compel petitioner, a lowly worker, to tread once again the calvary of a protracted litigation and flagellate him into submission with the lash of technicality."

Settled precedents

In 1991, the court affirmed the dismissal of a PAL manager who falsified plane tickets by tampering the same from economy to business class (GR 87353, July 3, 1991). In 1992, the court also sustained the dismissal of a Baguio Country Club personnel manager (GR 102397, Sept. 4, 1992) for multiple falsification of liquidation reports. In 1997, a group of workers were dismissed for multiple falsification to support fictitious claims for SSS benefits. The court affirmed the dismissal.

In 1998, a Coke supervisor was dismissed for accepting kickbacks from contractors. The high court sustained the decision to dismiss (GR 115491, Nov. 24, 1998). The court, however, specified that mere allegation of loss of confidence does not suffice to warrant dismissal (GR 106331, March 9, 1998). It was clarified that in order for loss of confidence to accrue, the employee concerned must hold a position of trust.

These cases should, thus, give us enough guidelines on the proper grounds on procedures in termination of employment. The rules are simple. We ought to master them by now.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph.)

BSP says Fed move to determine overnight rates

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday it might cut its overnight rates if the US Federal Reserve eases its own policy rates next month.

"At this point, we would just wait for the US to cut its rates so we could protect our rate differential," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters.

"It looks like the Fed may lower (in March)," Buenaventura said. "If the Fed lowers, then we could possibly lower."

But he said a long cycle of monetary easing was winding down.

"I don't think there will be too many cuts. Hopefully, we can sustain it at these levels."

Philippine overnight rates are currently at a six and a half-year low, at 7.25 percent for overnight borrowing and 9.5 percent for lending.

The central bank last cut rates on Feb. 14, by 25 basis points.

It was the 18th successive cut since December 2000.

Buenaventura said the BSP was unlikely to trim the 16-percent reserve requirements it imposed on banks. At this rate, banks are required to put in the central bank's vaults 16 centavos out of every P1 placed with them.

"There is enough liquidity in the system to handle the requirement of the economy. We see this in the way that treasury bill rates had dropped to a level lower than the overnight rates," he said.

Buenaventura said T-bill rates might drop some more should banks continue to place most of their funds in government securities instead of lend them to private companies.

Buenaventura sees February inflation rising to 3.9%

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday annual inflation in February was likely to come in at 3.9 percent, a slight uptick from January, but that authorities would still have room to ease policy rates.

"There's still a huge difference" compared to interest rates of the US Federal Reserve, he told Reuters.

He said annual inflation in February, to be announced next week, was likely to come in at 3.9 percent from 3.8 percent in January.

Earlier, Buenaventura said the central bank may cut its overnight rates if the US Fed eased its own policy rates next month.

"It looks like the Fed may lower (in March)," he said. "If the Fed lowers, then we could possibly lower."

But he said a long cycle of monetary easing in the Philippines was winding down.

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It was the 18th successive cut since December 2000.

Reuters

Minus loan growth, RP banks regarded as unattractive

By Elena R. Torrijos

SINGAPORE—Philippine banks have little prospect of becoming attractive to investors unless loan growth picks up, Merrill Lynch first vice president Keith Irving said in a bankers' meeting here.

Irving, speaking at the sidelines of the three-day Asian Banker Summit, told the INQUIRER that Merrill Lynch had advised its clients against investing in banks in the Philippines and other similar emerging markets.

Philippine banks still largely relied on net interest income—loans for profitability—he said. "There is still no loan growth and, without that, it's difficult for banks to make money," Irving said.

He explained that most companies still had no plans to increase capital expenditures, and some were reducing these expenditures further.

"When we see that (capital expenditures) starting to turn, then we'll look at emerging market banks," Irving said.

He forecast that loan growth would not yet pick up in the first half of the year.

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John Gokongwei, the school

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

TAIPAN John Gokongwei Jr., who prides in his being a *kuripot* and *makunat*, has just endowed zillions to the management college of the Ateneo de Manila University, a school he never attended.

In return for the generous gift, the Jesuits have decided to rename the college the John Gokongwei School of Management.

Gokongwei's son-in-law, Ateneo law school graduate Perry Pe, declined to reveal the size of the endowment, deferring instead to the Jesuits if they so decide in this morning's dedication ceremonies at the Loyola campus.

(According to the grapevine, Gokongwei donated P200 million.)

Wife Robina Gokongwei-Pe joked that the donation could put the third generation Gokongweis at risk into attending public schools instead.

The taipan, incidentally, obtained a commerce degree in De La Salle University, at a time when it was still a college and an exclusive boys' school like Ateneo.

In addition to the popular business administration course, the Ateneo management college also offers four-year courses leading to baccalaureate degrees on management engineering and legal management.

Back in business

IN A tacit acknowledgment that the Philippines is back in business, ABS-CBN is beefing up its business news coverage.

Unlike its pre-1997 plan of converting Channel 21 into a business and news channel, the Lopez-controlled network is this time consolidating its business coverage into a single division, with that unit supplying all the business-related news and coverage for Channel 2 and UHF channels 21 and 23.

The plan calls for detailing reporters in every major business "beat," just as the dailies do. But with cost-cutting still very much in place, ABS-CBN would not hire but simply reassign existing reporters to the expanded business team.

The increased business reportage, which should be onstream by next month, would hopefully muscle out the daily dosage of *saksakan* and *bugbugan* that are being inflicted nationwide, every night on prime-time TV.

Hostess Ces Oreña-Drilon is the *bastonero*, or rather, the *bastonera* for project business, according to the grapevine.

For a start, Channel 21's stock market ticker tape coverage has already expanded into the afternoon hours, in tandem with the market's extended trading hours.

The more, the merrier

FOR the first time in recent memory, next weekend's election for the board of the Manila Golf Club will see 13 candidates vying for five board seats.

It was not immediately clear why so many have signified to be on the board of the country's most prestigious golf club at this time.

In any case, the 13 are: Carlos Alindada, incumbent president Rodolfo Cuenca, Michael Escaler, Jose Ibazeta (the favorite golfer of Carlos Soriano), Eduardo Litonjua Jr., Douglas Lu Ym, Oscar Reyes, Elon Ting, Severo Jose Tuason, Paul Dennis Valdes, Cesar Virtusio, E-PCIBank president Deogracias Vistan, and Joselito Yujuico.

The MGC has 530 voting members, of whom only about 150-170 regularly cast their votes.

What is being keenly watched is whose candidacies Macario Te, the acknowledged kingmaker, will support. Te alone already commands 20 votes, representing the corporate shareholdings of the Lucio Tan companies that have been entrusted to him.

Heard through the grapevine

THE EXPATRIATE president of the yet-to-be opened Asian Hospital in Alabang has resigned following a boardroom struggle that pitted him and his fellow expatriates, along with the local architect, against the local partners who were protesting some P300-million in cost overruns.

Dirty linen is now being washed in public, including an alleged P3-million manager's check handed allegedly to the mistress of an Erap-appointed chair of a government financial institution in return for a hefty loan from that GFI.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Greenspan . . .

From page B1

"He was more cautious than I expected," admitted Naroff Economic Advisors president and chief economist Joel Naroff.

"The signal the market took is that they (Fed policymakers) are willing to stay at lower rates until they are really comfortable because they do not think there is a real risk of inflation."

Wall Street, which had rallied as Greenspan spoke early in the day, retraced most of its gains. The blue-chip Dow Jones industrials average closed just 12.32 points higher at 10,127.58.

Greenspan said businesses had already liquidated much of their stockpiles and, if demand remained relatively stable, they would soon have to order new goods, boosting production.

AFP

GARDENIA
BAKERIES (PHILIPPINES) INC.

Congratulations!!!

Greetings from Plastimer Industrial Corporation.

Makro plans own retail trade arm

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE MAKRO Group of the Netherlands is reportedly planning to put up a separate, wholly owned retail trading arm in the Philippines in its bid to expand its base.

Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said Makro was interested in putting up more retail stores in the country specially with the lifting of the 60-percent equity requirement on retail stores by March 25 this year.

The Department of Trade and Industry had earlier approved Makro group's application to expand its retail business in the country. Makro is broadening its presence in the country through Orkam Asia, a wholly owned firm of Netherlands' biggest private company SHV.

Makro has been operating in the Philippines since 1996 through Pilipinas Makro Inc. where it has the biggest share with 38 percent. Its partners are Ayala Land Inc. (22 percent) and SM Investments Corp. (30 percent). Makro currently caters to card-carrying wholesale buyers who are required to show their business permits or licenses to be members.

Roxas said Makro was taking advantage of the Retail Trade Act, which allows foreign investors to own as much as 100 percent of a local retail unit.

Roxas, however, did not discount the possibility that Makro might buy out its local partners. But sources from the Ayala and SM groups said there were no offers to buy them out of the profitable warehouse-shopping venture. Makro officials did not respond to the INQUIRER's queries.

Roxas likened Makro's application to McDonalds Corp., which is keen on firming up its control of its local operations in the country. Based on its plans submitted to the DTI, McDonald's, through its holding firm McDonald's Restaurant Operations Inc., will effect the merger of its 40 percent-owned subsidiary in the Philippines, Golden Arches Development Corp., and McGeorge Food Industries of George Young, the Philippine franchise holder, with the former as the surviving entity. Golden Arches handles the purchase or lease of McDonald's stores while McGeorge issues the franchises.

Makro will be the second foreign retailer to be operating a wholly owned unit after S&R Price Club of Pricesmart of the United States. Three other foreign retailers—Wal-Mart, Casino Guichard Perrachon and Carrefour—are currently waiting in the wings, looking for investment opportunities before making their move.

Hong Kong billionaire Li Kashing and Philippine retail king Henry Sy have already firmed up plans to put up Watsons' drugstores and health and beauty shops in the country.

BSP pushes tighter money laundering law

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday urged Congress to tighten the country's Anti Money Laundering Act to convince the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force to remove the Philippines from a list of countries perceived to be havens for dirty money.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the threshold of the amount that would trigger an investigation into suspected laundering activities must be way below the P4-million limit set in RA 9160.

"We are studying if the appropriate amount would be somewhere between $10,000 and $20,000 (equivalent to P500,000 to P1 million)," the central bank chief said.

He explained that the focus on money laundering had changed since the Sept. 11 tragedy in the United States. Whereas before, money laundering was believed to be done in huge amounts as a result of drug-trafficking or smuggling, the issue on terrorist financing had changed the perception.

The central bank chief said that, for instance, the Sept. 11 tragedy was believed to have been financed with less than $50,000. "After Sept. 11, the focus was shifted to terrorist financing, a type of money laundering believed to be done in smaller amounts," he explained.

The law requires banks and financial institutions to report suspicious transactions worth P4 million and above.

"We must determine a reasonable amount to be effective in the campaign against money laundering as it focuses on terrorist financing," he noted.

Buenaventura said if there was an issue that could discourage the Paris-based international watchdog on money laundering, it would be the relatively high threshold under the Philippine law.

"What appears to be a main issue is the threshold. It remains to be seen whether we could convince the FATF that our law is already appropriate," said the BSP chief, who also chairs the Anti Money Laundering Council.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, however, insisted that the law passed last year was already sufficient to address international concerns on money laundering.

Camacho said the FATF would send a mission to Manila very soon to determine if the government had been implementing the law efficiently.

"Our contention is always that we have a sufficient law and that we are implementing it efficiently. But the central bank will have more information on what the FATF really feels," the finance chief said.

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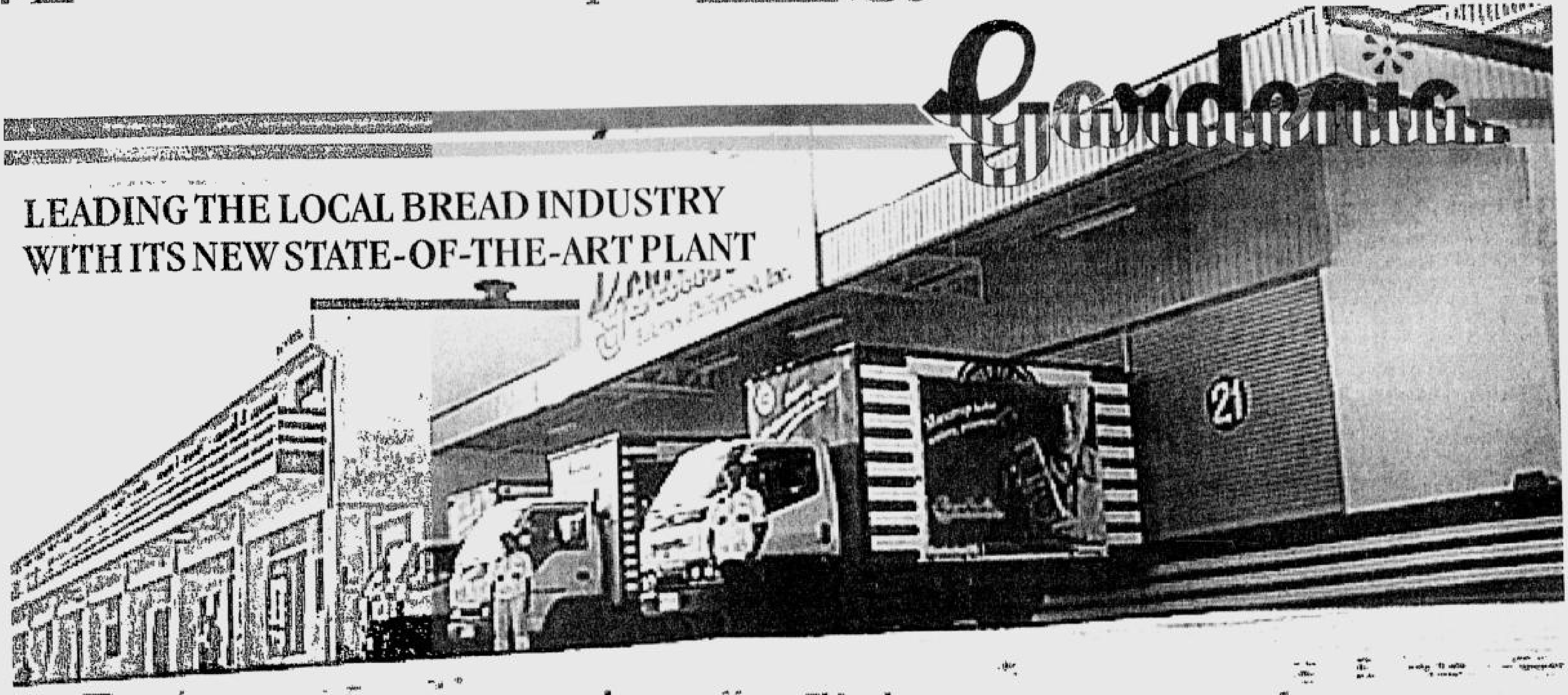

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MESSAGES

Our warmest greetings to the Board of Directors, the Management and Staff of Gardenia Bakeries Philippines, Inc. on the occasion of the Inauguration of your Expanded Plant at the Laguna International Industrial Park, Biñan, Laguna on March 1, 2002.

It is heartening to note that since the operationalization of its state-of-the-art large-scale bread manufacturing facility in 1998, Gardenia Bakeries Philippines, Inc. has already expanded its sales five-fold --- with a distribution network reaching provinces to the north and south of Metro Manila.

We are one with the company in its vision to become "One of the Most Admired Food Companies" in Asia, and its aspiration to provide superior product quality and value for Filipino consumers through advanced technology and an extensive system of distribution to ensure the highest level of freshness and product satisfaction. Indeed, considering that food is a basic necessity in our daily lives, we cannot overemphasize the need for greater conciousness and commitment among producers to adhere to the Highest standards in food quality, safety and reliablity at all times. Likewise, the company's wide range of products being made available to the local market serves as a contribution to government's thrust of widening consumer options and promoting welfare.

The presence and participation in Philippine business by Gardenia International Singapore Pte. Ltd. through its local subsidiary, QAF Limited -- which established Gardenia Bakeries Philippines, Inc., sends a strong signal of confidence to the international business community that the Philippines is, indeed, a feasible platform for overseas production. Thus, we definitely look forward to the success of Gardenia Bakeries Philippines, Inc. as this would serve as a shining testimony to what Filipino-Singaporean collaboration in technology and investments can achieve for the mutual benefit of the two countries' business communities.

To Gardenia Bakeries Philippines, Inc., our sincere congratulations and best wishes.

Mabuhay!

MAR ROXAS
Secretary
Department of Trade & Industry

Congratulations to the Gardenia Bakeries Philippines, Inc. on the inauguration of its plant at the Gardenia compound at the Laguna International Industrial Park in Biñan, Laguna on March 1, 2002.

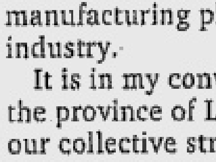
I am proud that companies like Gardenia have chosen to make our province their home. We are enriched by their presence, and their dynamic growth has brought Laguna a vibrant economy.

Bread will be our sustenance – not just symbolically, but in reality. Gardenia's corporate integrity, its high quality standards and enviable world-class bread manufacturing plant assure us of a future nourished with thriving business and active industry.

It is in my conviction to further strengthen my administration's commitment to keep the province of Laguna as one of the fastest growing areas. Let us be guided by God in our collective strength for a more peaceful and more productive Laguna.

Mabuhay!

Teresita S. Lazaro
TERESITA S. LAZARO
Governor
Province of Laguna



Greetings!

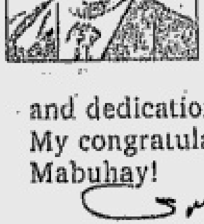
I would like to congratulate GARDENIA BAKERIES PHILS., INC., as it inaugurates its new plant today. We are especially proud of today's occasion as we consider this an important and momentous event in our company's history.

We have ever since been confident in the Philippines in general and in the growth of the bread industry in particular. And this new plant serves as a testament to that.

Our confidence as well goes to the management and staff of Gardenia Philippines.

Again, my congratulations.

TAN KONG KING
Group Managing Director
QAF (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.



Today marks another important turning point in GARDENIA BAKERIES PHILIPPINES, INC., as we inaugurate our new state-of-the-art bread manufacturing facility.

The new plant, which utilizes the latest technology and equipment in large scale bread manufacturing from Europe and the USA, is designed to produce world-class high quality bread that is delivered fresh daily to Filipno consumers.

This plant also represents the fruit of the untiring efforts and dedication of the Gardenia organization here and abroad.

My congratulations to all of them.

Mabuhay!

SIMPLICIO P. UMALI, JR.
General Manager
Gardenia Bakeries Philippines, Inc.

Gardenia Bakeries Philippines Inc. Inaugurates New Plant Today

...the expansion as a positive signal to the international business Community that the Philippines is a "feasible platform for overseas production."
—Sec. MAR ROXAS

Gardenia Bakeries Philippines, Inc., a subsidiary of Gardenia International (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. inaugurates its new, expanded state-of-the-art bread- manufacturing" plant today at the Laguna International Industrial Park (LIIP) in Biñan, Laguna.

The new plant bolsters Gardenia's expansion program that will address the growing demand for its products in more provinces in Luzon.

Expected to lead the formal inauguration rites today are Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas who hailed the expansion as a positive signal to the international business community that the Philippines is a "feasible platform for overseas production," and Singaporean Ambassador Jacky Foo.

Also expected in the event are Laguna Governor Teresita Lazaro, Biñan Mayor Hemis Perez. and other town officials.

Gardenia's State-of-the-Art Plant Opens Up New Dimensions in Philippine Bread Production

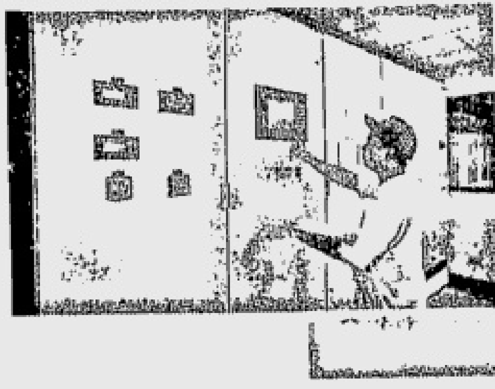
Gardenia's new state-of-the-art bread-manufacturing plant will boost its bread production capacity to respond to the growing demand for Gardenia breads.

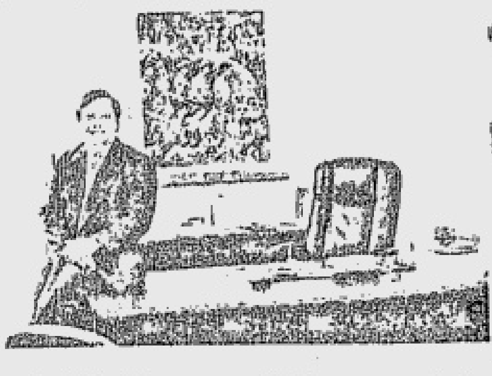
Apart from its quality bread products, its savvy marketing strategy and unique distribution scheme, what Gardenia people are proudest about is its new state-of-the-art bread-manufacturing plant and its ultra-modern, high-technology baking process.

"Our plant is the fruit of the untiring efforts of the Gardenia organization here and abroad to produce top quality breads that will truly benefit our consumers. We are very proud of this plant which utilizes the latest technology and equipment in large scale bread manufacturing from Europe and the USA," Simplicio P. Umali Jr., Gardenia General Manager explains.

The manufacturing process of Gardenia Bakeries Philippines Inc. utilizes an enhanced method of baking called the Sponge and Dough Process which results in softer bread with better flavor and aroma.

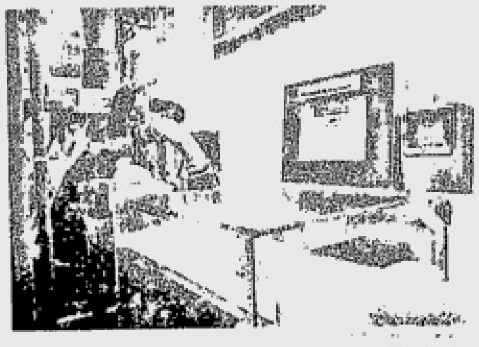
The Gardenia bread-making process is unique because it does not allow human hands to touch the ingredients, the dough or the bread-in-progress. In fact, the first set of human hands that are laid on Gardenia breads is the consumer's own.





The new state-of-the-art plant is also fully automated and equipped with a computer that controls all the processes from Ingredient Handling to Packaging.

No short cuts are taken in making its world-class breads. Gardenia does not use chemical accelerators that can shorten the laborious full-baking process.



The result is Gardenia bread that is simply delicious.

When baked, the bread loaves are checked by Quality Assurance before they are packed. The bread loaves are mechanically sliced, bagged and sealed with their G-Lock sealing clips. From their Laguna plant, Gardenia products go to supermarkets, groceries, convenience stores, gas stations and variety stores.

Gardenia bread making is truly an amazing process to discover.

Real Goodness in Gardenia Bread

What makes good bread?

Consumers often make the first test by pinching and smelling. That's the "pisil and amoy" test. But this traditional, first impulse way of testing the bread will in no way guarantee full satisfaction with the bread. The real test of bread comes with tasting—and other extra measures besides.

At Gardenia, we call it "The Bread Goodness Test."

First, you ask yourself: Do I need to put spread or filling on your bread to enjoy it? Bread should taste good on its own even with out spread or filling.

Second, bread should be soft. You can test the softness of the bread by rolling or folding it. If the bread is soft, it won't break at the ends.

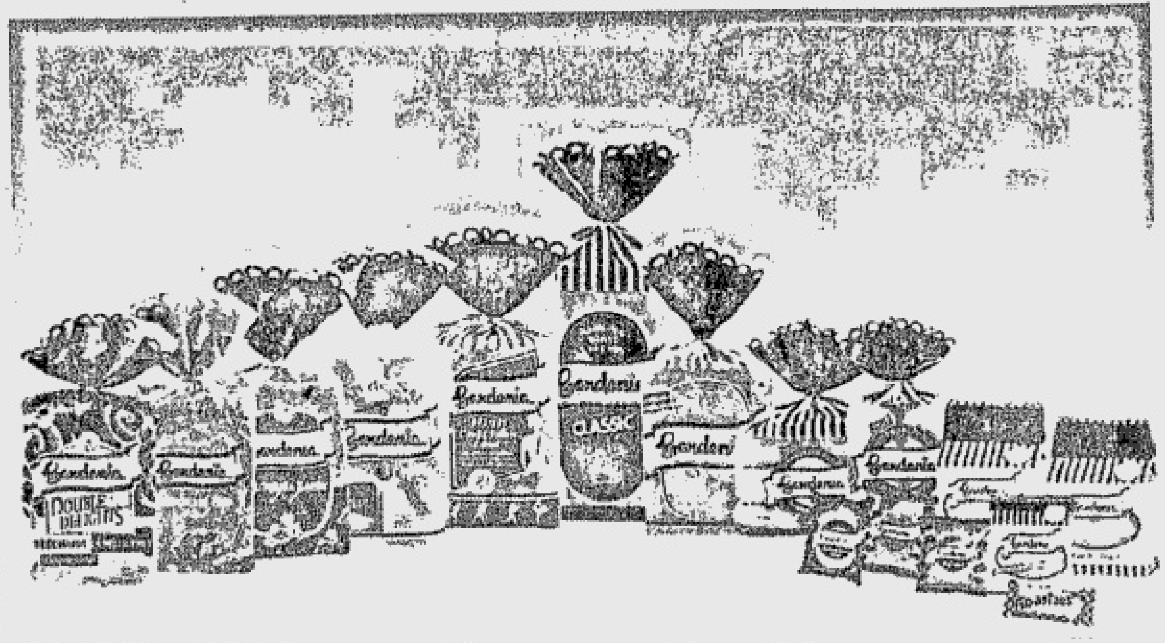
Third, freshness is of primary importance. It is not enough to rely on the "best before" expiry date on the bread pack. The bread you buy should be fresh and "fresh" means newly delivered. It is not always right to choose the loaf with the longest expiry date. Ten to fourteen days of shelf life makes the bread old. Check also if there is a freshness and quality guarantee printed on the package. Bread must smell good, like an irresistible, oven-baked aroma. The smell of freshly baked bread, as it has just come out of the oven, will ensure full consumer satisfaction.

Lastly, bread must be nutritious, with added vitamins and minerals. Check the nutrition fact chart and find out if it is bromate and cholesterol-free.

Taste, Softness, Freshness and Aroma are what make good bread. These are the very essence of Gardenia Enriched Classic White bread. At Gardenia, freshness, high quality and taste are guaranteed. As for freshness, all unsold breads are replaced with new ones every delivery day. That's why you can trust Gardenia breads to be always fresh.

Savor the same goodness in every Gardenia bread. There is the High-Fiber Wheat bread that' s good for digestive health. It's easily a health buff's favorite. The Raisin Loaf, which is laden with delicious California raisins. Chocolate Loaf with chewy chocolate. Truly chocolate lovers' delight and Mongo Loaf with sweet mongo filling swirled inside the loaf. All these goodness, plus the added nutritional value are found in every slice of Gardenia bread.

Gardenia makes delicious and healthy breads that are fortified with vitamins and minerals. Surely, all Gardenia products have the qualities that make good bread.



Taste, Softness, Freshness and Aroma are what make good bread

Gardenia Bakeries Philippines, Inc.: Always on the Rise

Gardenia's beginnings in the Philippines can be traced to early 1997 when QAF Limited, through Gardenia International (Singapore) Pte Ltd. established Gardenia Bakeries Philippines Inc. and started construction of its bread-manufacturing plant at the Laguna International Industrial Park (LIIP) in Biñan, Laguna.

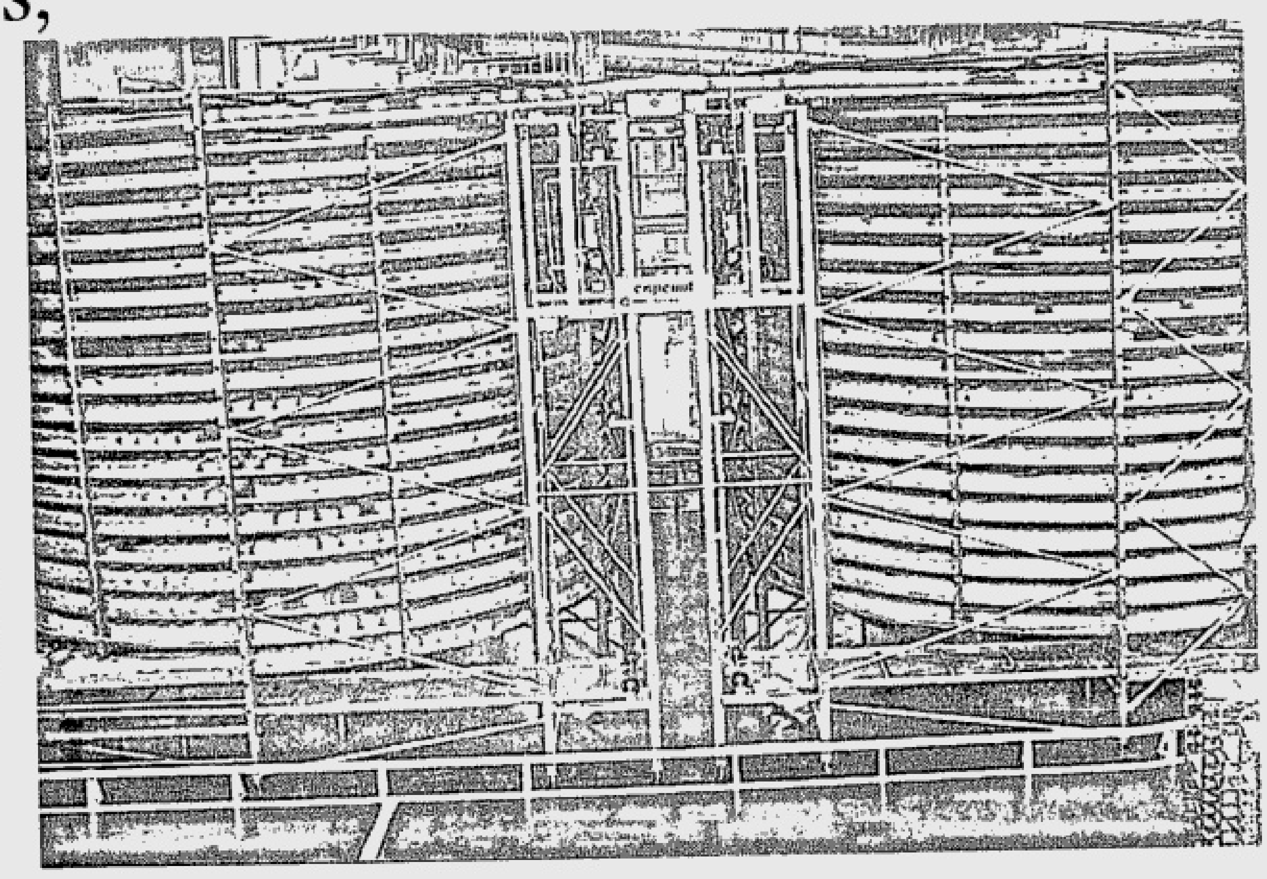
A multi-national company with operations in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and other Asian countries, QAF felt it was time to introduce Gardenia's quality bread products to the Philippines.

The start of operations in December 1997 was modest: 7 trucks and less than 50 personnel. But the plant was already something to brag about even in those early days. It was a state-of-the-art bread-manufacturing facility considered to be the biggest and most modern in the country.

Gardenia grew rapidly since then. It is now considered the most widely distributed brand of bread in Metro Manila. Distribution has fanned out to neighboring provinces and has reached even Tarlac and Pampanga in the north and Laguna and Batangas and Quezon in the south. Its sales have grown five-fold and are expected to keep on growing

The company has set the trend in providing the Filipino consumers with world-class bread that is loaded with taste, health benefits and value for money.

With the inauguration of its new state-of-the-art plant, Gardenia is confident of fulfilling its goals of giving delight to more and more satisfied customers as it continues to create, innovate and share new, delicious and healthful products with its growing and avid Philippine market.



It was a state-of-the-art bread-manufacturing facility considered to be the biggest and most modern in the country

Gardenia
DOUBLE DELIGHTS
UBELICIOUS
Gardenia
High Calcium Loaf

Early this year Gardenia introduced a whole new experience in bread enjoyment with Gardenia Double Delights' Ube and Cheese combination

Gardenia Bakeries Philippines: A Leader In Innovation

Gardenia has been continuously introducing new products to the delight of consumers.

Gardenia's introduction of flavored loaves has raised the Filipino's bread appreciation to a new level. The well-loved Gardenia California Raisin Loaf, Chocolate Chip Loaf and Mongo Loaf have demonstrated the growing bread sophistication of Filipino consumers.

Early this year Gardenia introduced a whole new experience in bread enjoyment with Gardenia Double Delights' Ube and Cheese combination. It has two delightful flavors baked in one amazing loaf. Gardenia Double Delights' unique packaging opens at both ends so consumers can taste and enjoy both flavors from either end anytime. This innovative product concept and packaging add to the fun and delight of enjoying this product.

Gardenia was the first to display bread in an unconventional way. Its colorful packaging is displayed in an upright position. The vertical display made Gardenia breads stand out on shelves, compared to breads that used the traditional flat, lying-down display. To educate consumers about the health benefits of eating bread, complete bread information is printed on the label, including nutrition facts, food pyramid guide, product and storage handling tips. This added product information was most welcomed by the consumers.

Gardenia was also the first to use the G-Lock in its packaging. G-Lock is a small, simple but powerful clip that locks the Gardenia bread tightly in its package, sealing in the freshness and ensuring that the bread retains its aroma, full flavor and softness. It can also be re-used to re-lock the package and keep unconsumed bread fresh.

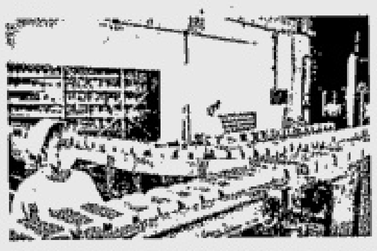
Recently, Gardenia launched its newest product, Gardenia High Calcium Loaf in response to growing bone health concerns in the country. Gardenia High Calcium Loaf is an excellent source of calcium that helps build strong bones and teeth and reduces the risk of osteoporosis. The bread is also heart-friendly because it is low in fat and cholesterol-free. Gardenia High Calcium is the only loaf bead recommended by the Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines, Inc.

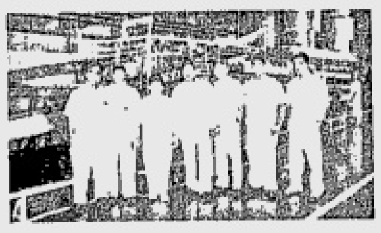
Gardenia's many firsts have captured the interest and heart of Filipino consumers, making them enjoy its wide range of offerings again and again and again.

Gardenia's bright ideas and constant innovation are what make Gardenia Bakeries Philippines a cut above the rest.

Gardenia

Gardenia's People Are Its Aces





One of the biggest factors behind the success of a company is its people. At Gardenia Philippines, makers of fresh, tasty, nutritious breads— the dedicated, hardworking employees are its heart and soul.

Nestor Constancia, Gardenia Marketing and Sales Manager, is convinced that without their people, Gardenia might not have become the bread favorite that it is now. Dedicated individuals from Manufacturing, Research and Development, Marketing and Sales, Finance, Administration and other support groups give 100% to their jobs.

"Our people are one of three important components that keep our business on the go," Constancia said. "There is our high-tech plant, and there are our world-class products. But the heart of this business is our people because they are the ones running the whole bread operations. In this business, you must put your heart and dedication into the job, otherwise lalabas na half-baked ang tinapay," Constancia punned. "Our people's dedication to their work and their belief in our mission translate into the quality of the breads that they produce."

Constancia says people are on the go at Gardenia 24 hours a day. Employees in charge of distribution report for work very early. Those who deliver to Luzon outlets come to get the breads at the plant at 2 a.m. Those who deliver to Manila outlets come as early as 3 a.m. so that delicious Gardenia breads can arrive fresh and on time at the different outlets. Sales people who cover convenience stores make deliveries during the night. They also go to great lengths to market Gardenia breads even to low-end sari-sari stores.

"Today Gardenia has become the most sought-after bread because of our people's efforts. They believe in the product. Before, you could only find them in supermarkets, but now our people go even to small outlets to share the goodness of our product with more consumers. Our employees are doing that with zest," Constancia enthuses.

"The company in turn makes sure that our employees are well taken care of," Constancia says. "Our management looks after their welfare. Here they can grow and nourish their careers because they can see that we are a sturdy and growing company. They feel confident that this company is here to stay.

"The key in keeping people happy and satisfied with their jobs is through a sound management style," he says. He emphasized that sincerity and honesty in communicating with about 300 employees are important in fostering an atmosphere of unity in a company. "We maintain sincere and open communication with our employees. We put our trust and confidence in them," Constancia added.

Leth Catalan, Gardenia's HR and Administration Manager said its good management principles are one reason why its people are loyal to their company. "We've been in business only for four years, but you can observe that there is hard work and perfect team work. There is a low personnel turnover," Catalan said.

"At Gardenia regular seminars on efficiency and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) are held to constantly develop workers and their performances," she added.

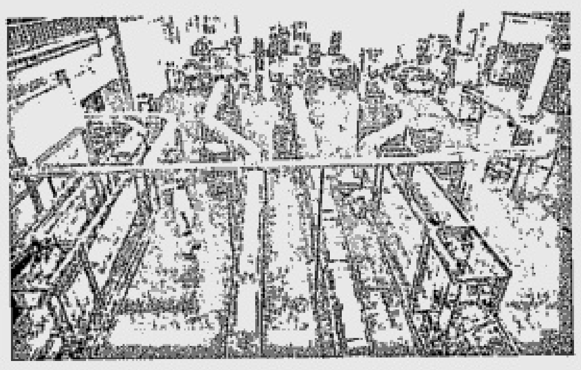
One satisfied and dedicated employee says working at Gardenia has been both a blessing and an opportunity for him to expand his knowledge in baking bread.

"I see myself working and growing with the company. It has helped me a lot to increase my knowledge, especially in baking. Dati sa school ko, puro baking lang. Dito, natuto akong malaman lahat ng aspeto ng paggawa ng tinapay, kung papaano ito mape-perfect. I can use that knowledge in the future to better myself in the company," he says.

Indeed the dedication and love of work that the employees pour into their bread making is best tasted and savored in every loaf of Gardenia bread.

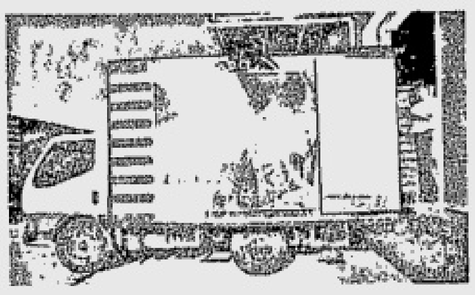
High Quality Product, State-Of-The-Art Plant and Dedicated People: Gardenia's Recipe for Success

Gardenia's slogan, "So good, you can even eat it on its own," is true to its claim, as more and more Filipinos are discovering that Gardenia breads do taste great – really delicious *"kahit walang palaman."* This main product attribute is the very reason why Gardenia bread became so popular in so short a time. Today, Gardenia products have become household favorites. Bread lovers are excited by the wide array of Gardenia breads



Gardenia breads are produced in a new, world-class, state-of-the-art bread-manufacturing plant which runs on the latest advanced technology, using fully electronic and computer-controlled equipment that allows the production of top quality breads on a large scale.

An integral part of Gardenia's success are its people. They have pooled their energies together and helped propel Gardenia to attain and maintain its No. 1 position in the local bread industry today.



Gardenia delivery vans leave the plant as early as 2 a.m. so that breads can arrive fresh and on time at the different outlets.

Guided by Gardenia' standards of quality and service at every step of the manufacturing and distribution process, Gardenia's people are its pride. Their dedication and love for their work can best be seen in the quality of breads that they produce.

With these three main ingredients of Products, Plant and People, Gardenia breads have become the most sought-after bread in supermarkets, convenience stores as well as sari-sari stores.

Gardenia invites students to educational plant tours so they can see for themselves how special Gardenia bread making process is.

CONGRATULATIONS!

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(FLOUR DIVISION)
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EMPEROR
HARD FLOUR
BROMATE FREE
Enriched with VITAMIN A

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"your trusted partner in refrigeration"

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Maker of fine Quality WICKETTED Bread Bags

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METRO TRUCK BUILDERS, INC

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Manila

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that printed copies of supplemental Revision Order (RO) 9-2001, RO 1-2002 and RO 2-2002 containing lists of transaction values of goods generally described as:

ALUMINUM HYDROXIDE
VINYL CHLORIDE MONOMER (VCM)
TOMATO PASTE

are available to all interested parties at the Bureau of Customs Printing Office, Office the Commissioner, Port Area, Manila. Details are verifiable at the Valuation and Classification Division (VCD) of this Bureau. For other information, the public may get in touch with the Valuation and Classification Division, telephone number 527-4549.

February 26, 2002, Manila, Philippines.

FOR THE COMMISSIONER:

(Sgd.) **GEORGE M. JEREOS**
Deputy Commissioner
for
Assessment and Operation Coordinating Group
and
Chairman, Customs Valuation Team

(PDI – Mar. 1, 2002)

PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER
Department of Agriculture

Headquarters and Gene Pool
Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, Philippines 3120
FAX 63 (044) 456-0730
Tel 63 (044) 456-0731 to 34
E-mail pcc-oed@mozcom.com
Manila Liaison Office
5F, DCIEC Building, NIA Compound
EDSA, Quezon City, Philippines 0830
Tel/FAX 63 (2) 921-3863
63 (2) 926-7107
E-mail pcc-mla@mozcom.com

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The **PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER (PCC)** invites interested suppliers/printers to pre-qualify for the printing of the following:

a. Package I : **Semen Processing and Artificial Insemination Supplies**
b. Package II : **Veterinary Drugs and Supplies**
c. Package III : **Veterinary Laboratory Supplies**
d. Package IV : **Electrical, Plumbing and Mechanical Tools Supplies**
e. Package V : **Tires and Lubricants**
f. Package VI : **Copy Paper and Computer Supplies**

Pre-qualification requirements can be secured from **MR. ROGEL M. DELA CUESTA** OF PCC Manila Office, 5F DCIEC Building, NIA Compound, EDSA, Quezon City and **ENGR. EDUARDO P. DALUSONG**, PCC Headquarters and Gene Pool, Maharlika Highway, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija starting **March 4, 2002.** Last day of submission of pre-qualification will be on **March 8, 2002.**

Only those who submitted pre-qualification documents are allowed to attend the pre-bid conference on **March 13, 2002, 10:00 AM** at the PCC Manila Office, 5th Floor, DCIEC Building, NIA Compound, EDSA, Quezon City. Those who failed to attend the pre-bidding conference are disqualified to participate in the bidding.

Sealed bids shall be received at PCC Manila Office not later than **March 22, 2002, Package I to III, 10:00 AM** and **Package IV to VI, 2:00 PM** at the same address. Only pre-qualified bidders will be allowed to attend the bidding proper.

The Philippine Carabao Center reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality in such bids, and to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **LIBERTADO C. CRUZ**
Executive Director

(PDI – Mar. 1 & 2, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Sarangani
Municipality of Glan
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL TREASURER

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Government of the Municipality of Glan, Sarangani Province invite bidders for the furnishing of the delivery of Glan, Sarangani Province within 30 working days from receipt of the award:

Trucks (12 units) - Isuzu Double Cab

Specifications:
- 4 wheeler
- Completely Built Unit (CBU)
- Reconditioned, Japan made
- With aircon
- With AM/FM Stereo

Date/Time		Schedule of Activities/Venue
March 6, 2002	5:00 PM	Deadline submission Letter of Intent
March 7, 2002	3:00 PM	Pre-qualification/ABC Hall
March 8, 2002	9:00 AM	Opening of Bids/ABC Hall

Terms and Conditions:
- brand new tires
- brand new batteries
- fully painted with lettering
- with jack and tire wrench
- with one (1) year Free LTO registration
- with one (1) year TPL insurance
- with complete customs paper
- guarantee for availability spare parts
- give warranty after sales service

Bids should be specific, items, price quoted shall be in accordance with the quantity as specified above. Please state unit and total of bid.

Envelope containing bids shall be sealed and plainly marked "PROPOSAL" for the furnishing of the above item to be opened on March 8, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. and addressed to the Chairman, Committee on Awards. Bids shall be accompanied by proposal bond in the form of cash, certified check or surety bond in the sum of Five Percent (5%) the amount of bid.

The Municipality of Glan, Sarangani reserves the right to confiscate the bond, if the bidder refuses to accept awards or fails to comply with the conditions of the bid. The right is also reserved to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality hereof or to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Municipal government. Bidders or their authorized representatives are invited to be present at the time stated above when bids are opened.

A liquidated damage in the amount of one-tenth (1/10) of one percent (1%) of the total value of the contract shall be deducted for each day of delay.

A liquidated damage in the amount of one-tenth (1/10) of one percent of the total value of the undelivered portion shall be deducted for each day of delay, if the contract has been partially filled.

(Sgd.) **RANULFO C. OMEGA**
Municipal Treasurer

(PDI - Feb. 22 Mar 1 & 5, 2002)

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OBITUARIES

Dear Lord, we give back to you
our beloved eldest child...

Nikolai Alexander "Niko" V. Reyes

(July 28, 1977 — February 23, 2002)

*...whom you have called early in this life. He joins You and his dearly departed grandparents, **Lolo Johnny**, **Lolo Pedro** and **Lola Julia** in your heavenly kingdom. Thank You, heavenly Father, for the gift of **Niko**. We will always cherish the joys and happiness he has brought us.*

We, his **Papa Alex** and **Mommy Rene**; together with his **Lola Gloria**; his siblings, **Angelo** and **Shasta**, **Mig-mig**, **Amil**, **Ogie** and **Jennifer**; niece, **Alexandra**; uncles, aunts and cousins; other relatives and friends in the US and in the Philippines; classmates and professors from UP, MaSci and Don Bosco Makati; entrust him to Your eternal care and love. O God, open our hearts and draw us close so we may feel that we are nearer Niko, who is now with You, smiling at us.

Niko's remains will be flown in on Saturday morning, March 2, 2002 from California and will lie in state at the Holy Trinity Chapel at Dr. A Santos Avenue, Sucat, Paranaque City. Requiem mass will be on March 7, 2002 at 8:00 AM. Interment follows at the Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City Tels. 715-1025, 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8589, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (075) 522-3451, 522-2128, (0917) 434-9976
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City Tel. 732-0309, 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
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He who believes in Me will live,
Even though he dies;
And whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

In Loving Memory
on the First Death Anniversary of

AMELIA "Mommy" SARZA y VARGAS DORMIDO

of Iriga, Naga and Quezon City

September 9, 1936 - March 1, 2001

Her bereaved husband **Engr. Roger A. Dormido Sr.**; children **Salvacion** (†), **Myra**, **Maricor**, son **Roger Jr.** and **Ronnie**; grandchildren **Roger III** (†), **Romar Brian**, **Marielle Anne**, **Ma. Rocelle**, **Mary Joy** and **Venise**; and **Amelia's** brothers and sisters, request relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

The Holy Mass will be offered on March 1, 2002 at the following churches:

Parokya ng Banal na Sacramento, Novaliches, Quezon City
Our Lady of Annunciation Parish Church, Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City
Holy Cross Memorial Park, San Bartolome Church, Novaliches, Quezon City
San Antonio de Padua Church, Iriga City
Peñafrancia Church, Naga City
Baguio Cathedral Church, Baguio City
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FLORENTINO "TINO" N. VERGEL DE DIOS

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Founder, Baliuag Rural Bank, Inc.
Past Grand Knight, Knights of Columbus,
St. Augustine Council No. 4317 Past Navigator,
K of C Biak Na Bato Assembly No. 2261

Peacefully joined our Lord
on February 26, 2002 at the age of 83.

His loving wife **Nena** (†); children **Sito** and **Edel**, **George** and **Corrie**, **Eddie** and **Marvie**, **Oscar** and **Roselle**, **Rene** and **Nida**, **Ramon** and **Tina**, **Onit**, **Riza**; brothers and sisters, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence at Dr. Luis Reyes Street, Tarcan, Concepcion, Baliuag, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Saturday, March 2, 2002 after the 9:00 a.m. Requiem Mass at the St. Augustine Church, Baliuag, Bulacan.

"Home is the sailor, home from the sea,
And the hunter home from the hill."

ANTONIO L. ARIZABAL, SR.
"Grampa"

FORMER PRESS SECRETARY
TO PRESIDENT ELPIDIO QUIRINO

January 17, 1903 - February 28, 2002

He will be missed by his sons **Dr. Antonio V. Arizabal, Jr.** and Ambassador **Jorge V. Arizabal**;
daughters-in-law **Eloisa Mendez** and **Antonia Añes**;
grandchildren **Victoria A. Koda** and **Toti Arizabal**;
cousins, nieces and nephews.

"Grampa" lies in state at Christ the King Memorial Chapel, Green Meadows.

Cremation has been tentatively scheduled for March 4.

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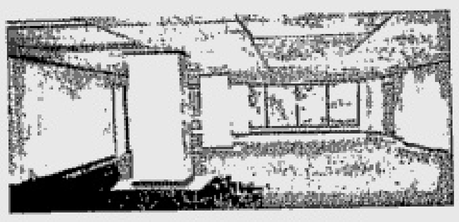

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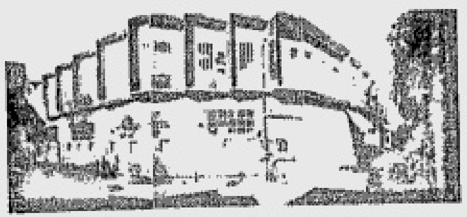

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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY
PHILIPPINES

IN THE MATTER OF THE
INTERIM REVIEW OF THE
ANTI-DUMPING DUTY IMPOSED
ON THE IMPORTATION OF
PVC FLOOR COVERING FROM
THAILAND
x--x

ORDER

Before the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is the Tariff Commission's Report of Findings on the Interim Review of the Anti-Dumping Duty imposed on the importation of PVC floor covering (HS Heading No. 3918.1090) from Thailand.

The Commission has found that price difference between the normal value and the export price of PVC floor covering originating in or exported by Thailand is de minimis at 1.30%. The Commission further concluded that the volume of PVC importation is nil. Thus, the conditions for the imposition of definitive anti-dumping duty no longer exist.

In view thereof, it is hereby ordered that the imposition of the definitive anti-dumping duty of US$0.22 per yard on the said article from Thailand, more specifically, PVC floor covering in rolls, measuring 0.50 mm. x 72" x 30 yards (HS Heading No. 3918.1090) be terminated.

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (d), Section 19 of the IRR implementing Section 301 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines (TCCP), as amended by RA 8752 (Anti-Dumping Act of 1999), the Department of Trade and Industry hereby issues an Order terminating the definitive anti-dumping duty on PVC floor covering from Thailand.

All parties concerned, including the Secretary of Finance and the Commissioner of Customs, shall be notified accordingly of such termination.

Let a copy of this Order be published immediately in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

SO ORDERED.

February 21, 2002

MAR ROXAS
Secretary

(PDI -- Mar. 1, 2002)

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **MACONDRAY PLASTICS, INC.** with principal office address at Km. 13, Panacan, Davao City, for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as Executive Order 226, as Amended, as Expanding Export Producer and with existing plant site at Km 13, Panacan, Davao City, has been officially accepted on December 10, 2001 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection in writing and under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
OIC-Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI - March 1, 2002)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of the late TERNORA P. ROJAS executed affidavit of adjudication by sole heir of estate of deceased person dated Feb. 13, 2002 as per Doc#313 Page53 Book 24 Series of 2002 Acknowledged before notay public JOEL G. GORDOLA of Quezon City PDI 2 /15,22 3/1,02

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MATEO CARLOS Y MIJOS has been extra-judicially settled among his heirs under Doc. No. 495, Page No. 100, Book No. XII, Series of 2001, by Notary Public, Eustacio V. Flores, Pateros, Metro Manila *(PDI-Feb. 15, 22, March 1, 2002)*

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Globe Stock Certificate Nos. 307, 2791, 5909, 8260,9979, 29364, 35734, 37699, 42463, 46008, 60696, 72051, 99437, 101197, 8800003236 issued to JACINTO M. MANTARING JR. has been lost.
(PDI-Feb. 7, Mar. 1 & 9, 2002)

NOTICE SHARE OF STOCKS CERTIFICATE NO. 29246 2426 7221 16891 27972 34058 17659 OF AYALA CORP. ISSUED TO MANUEL V. HERRERA WERE LOST SOMETIMES IN 1990.

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.
This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle. Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forgot the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

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- Membership in at least one socio-civic organization
- Of good standing in the community
- With published works (research/ essays/literary works, etc.)
- 35 to 60 years old
- In good physical and mental health

Minimum qualifications (for positions 3 and 4)
- Bachelor degree in relevant field (but Masteral degree in relevant field a definite advantage)
- Three years or more of relevant experience
- Membership in at least one professional organization
- Membership in atleast one socio-civic organization
- Of good standing in the community
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Attention: School of Journalism
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Palanan, 1235 Makati City

Only applicants who submit complete requirements on or before March 15, 2002 will be invited for screening, interview and/or testing.

LYCEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

Mylene de Jesus *Account Manager*

sprojects@inquirer.com.ph

Aries Espinosa *Editor*

MESSAGES

I WISH to convey my warmest felicitations to the academic community of the Lyceum of the Philippines on their Golden Jubilee Anniversary celebration.

I congratulate the entire institution for 50 years of rendering quality education to the Filipino youth. Your Golden Jubilee Anniversary marks years of instilling in our youth knowledge, skills and values necessary for their future successful participation in society, I urge you to continue seeking ways to provide education that is effective, socially relevant and attuned to the needs of the 21st century.

Our Administration recognizes the tremendous role education plays in the attainment of our goal for sustainable development in this era of modernization. I am confident that you will be able to continue guiding our youth to channel their efforts and energies towards productive endeavors that will help expedite our country's development.

I enjoy the Lyceum of the Philippines' administration to persevere in its commitment to improve the standard of education in our country. Let us continue our partnership in this and other endeavors that will bring greater peace, progress and prosperity to our country.

Again, congratulations on your anniversary. *Mabuhay.*

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

OUR warmest felicitations to the administrators, faculty students and alumni of the Lyceum of the Philippines, as you celebrate your Goldeb Jubilee.

Over the years, Lyceum has kept faith and given substance to its founder's vision. Countless graduates have passed through its portals, bringing the world the skills and values inculcated in them by the institution and contributing not only to the economy's workforce but more importantly to the citizenry that builds our nation.

We therefore extend our warmest congratulations to the whole Lyceum community for working together in the spirit of teamwork and collective responsibility to successfully reach this milestone.

Good luck and *Mabuhay*!

ESTER A. GARCIA
Chairperson, CHED

GREETINGS!

The Lyceum of the Philippines in 50 years has indeed accomplished the mandate of its founder, President Jose P. Laurel to mold the Filipino youth in the service of God and humanity.

We acknowledge with appreciation the stint of Dr. Laurel as president of PACU from 1948 t949 and the significant role and support the officials of the school have taken in our activities through the years.

Accept the congratulations of all the member schools and best wishes for your continued success.

MARIA L. AYUYAO
President, Philippine Association of Colleges & Universities

"THE PRIMARY function of education is to develop all the latent potentialities of an individual." – Jose P. Laurel.

Fifty years ago, Dr. Jose P.Laurel at age 61 founded the Lyceum of the Philippines to enlighten and develop our youth into citizens dedicated to the service of God and the Motherland. We honor our Founder on his 111th birth anniversary and salute him for his patrionism, idealism, courage and fortitude. His guiding principles on education and morality remain the bedrock of our institution.

Over the past fifty years, Lyceum has graduated thousands of young men and women inspired and guided by the ideals of our Founder. We take pride in our alumni many of whom have gained prominence in their respective fields of endeavor, notably the field of public service. As we look back with a sense of fulfillment on these past years, we are grateful to our Chairman of the Board, Dr. Sotero H. Laurel who served as Executive Secretary from 1952 to 1959 and as President from 1960 to December 2001, for patiently nurturing our institution from its infancy and wisely steering it to culminate in its glorious golden years.

The radical changes in the environment of the new millennium pose many daunting challenges. With God's blessings and the continuing collaboration of the academic community we respond to these challenges with total dedication and resolve to continuing the quest for academic excellence.

ROBERTO P. LAUREL
President, Lyceum of the Philippines

Taking the Filipino youth into the future

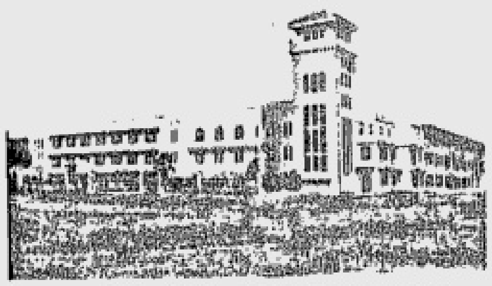
Philip Lustre

IN 1991, the Congressional Commission on Education made the following observation: "The quality of Philippine education is declining continuously. The elementary and high schools are failing to teach the competence the average citizen needs to become responsible, productive, and self-fulfilling. Colleges and technical-vocational schools are not producing the manpower to propel the economy. Graduate education is mediocre. It does not generate the research-based knowledge to create more jobs and to raise the value of production.

The Commission, in it review of Philippine education, gave two reasons for the decline: first, the country was simply not investing enough in the education system; and second, the education establishment was poorly managed.

But long before the Commission came out with this jolting conclusion (or, as some people said, validated what was then prevailing), the Lyceum of the Philippines had embarked on a program to provide quality education for the deserving Filipino regardless of economic and social standing. Its founder, the venerable Dr. Jose P. Laurel, had envisioned a center for learning to satisfy the yearning for quality education.

After 50 arduous years, Lyceum has definitely found its niche in the country's education system. Yet, it is now enmeshed in the continuing process of reinventing and reengineering itself, searching new ways to prepare its students and graduates for the future. The imperative is to address the current maelstrom of change, if it is to survive and stay relevant. It indeed recognizes the future – and its dizzying pace of change – as a wide frontier to conquer.



Lyceum of the Philippines in its early days

History

In 1952, Dr. Jose P. Laurel founded Lyceum of the Philippines to address what he said was the need for an enlightened and progressive system of education in the country.

Dr. Laurel lamented the strong colonial influence in the educational system and widespread slave mentality and colonial mindedness among Filipinos. He was deeply disappointed when the Bell Trade Act was ratified despite his arguments against granting parity rights to the Unite States and its citizen was ratified.

Dr. Laurel did not brood nor blame anybody. Instead he founded Lyceum, whose primary objective is to make nationalistic and productive Filipinos by training and education. Lyceum was his answer to what he then perceived to be a lack of nationalism and sense of purpose in the country. This was also the reason why the school was named as such. Lyceum came from the Greek word "lykeion," originally the shaded grove near Athens, where Aristotle and other philosophers taught.

Dr. Laurel envisioned the Lyceum of the Philippines to be an intellectual center in Asia, a sort of Alexandria, the Egyptian port-city of antiquity that became the center of learning and intellectual activity in the Mediterranean basin. He wanted Lyceum to play a role in his grand vision and to be one of the main pieces of a giant jigsaw puzzle of intellectual endeavor.

Dr. Laurel was overseeing Lyceum's rapid expansion when he died on 1959. His son, Dr. Sotero H. Laurel, took over the presidency to realize his late father's vision. The 1960's saw Lyceum's rapid increase in student enrolment, triggering further expansion and aggressive improvement of its facilities. By that time, Lyceum earned its place in the education system, thus, becoming one of the country's reputable centers of learning.

Dr. Laurel was overseeing Lyceum's rapid expansion when he died in 1959. His son, Dr. Sotero H. Laurel, took over the presidency to realize his late father's vision. The 1960s saw Lyceum's rapid increase in student enrolment, triggering further expansion and aggressive improvement of its facilities. By that time, Lyceum earned its place in the education system, thus, becoming one of the country's reputable centers of learning.

As part of its reinventing efforts, Lyceum is redesigning its educational model to move from a teacher-centered model to a learner-centered one

Lyceum did not escape the intellectual ferment and the rise of student activism of the late 19602. It was indeed involved. As a nationalist institution, Lyceum amply played its role as a liberal forum of various ideas from different persuasions without necessarily becoming a mouthpiece of any political ideology.

The martial law era however did not deter Lyceum from being a beacon of academic freedom. While it tiptoed to avoid the ire of the Marcos dictatorship, Lyceum silently cultivated its own share of participation in the anti-dictatorship struggle. This was why when the people unleashed their wrath in the Edsa People Power Revolution in 1986, many Lyceans involved themselves in that historic event.

The post-Marcos era saw Lyceum focusing itself to strengthen the country's newly restored democracy and contribute to economic recovery efforts. It has streamlined its curriculum to reflect a more dynamic and egalitarian bent.

The present Lyceum

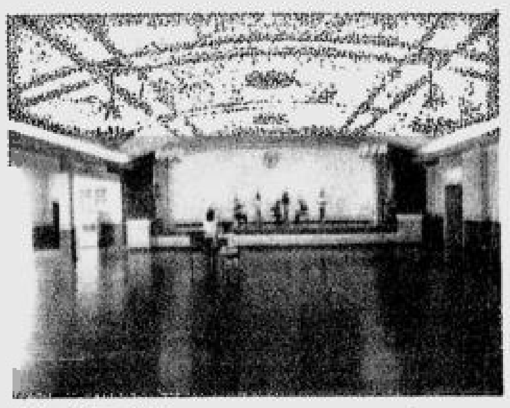
Lyceum opened in1952 with only one edifice and two colleges: the College of Law and the College of Arts and Sciences which had a combined student population of 1,000. Now it has four buildings, eight colleges and an average first semester enrolment of 12,000.

Two affiliate schools have been established: the Lyceum of Batangas in Batangas City in 1966 and the Lyceum Institute of Technology in Calamba, Laguna in 2000. Over the years, Lyceum has produced no less than 38 topnotchers in various licensure examinations and has 41,000 alumni, many of whom have gained prominence in their chosen careers, most notably in public service.

Very recently Dr. Sotero Laurel passed the torch of leadership to his son, lawyer Roberto Laurel, Dr. Laurel was part of Lyceum since its founding days. He served as Lyceum president for 40 years. His son's ascent to Lyceum presidency provides the youthful dynamism and visioning needed to steer the institution to the new millennium.

New challenges

The current situation offers enormous challenges for Lyceum as both external and internal developments continue to exert pressures to the country. The external environment is characterized by rapid pace of globalization, triggering the break-up and blurring of traditional boundaries and hastening the emergence of a global culture. Competitiveness is now the emerging ideology of globalization. What is not competitive is waylaid along the perilous road of development.



Hall of Freedom

The challenge to realign Philippine education to the requirements of the Philippine economy is a stark reality that every center of learning has to address. The mismatch between the country's education system and business is another. Lyceum has to answer and participate in the current initiatives to reform Philippine education.

Lyceum's answers to these challenges have been swift and decisive. As part of the reengineering efforts right at its own backyard, Lyceum has streamlined its operations, managed its resources and adopted measures to ensure financial viability. It is in the process of fine tuning its curriculum and preparing to offer new courses to ensure relevance and avoid obsolescence – all in the name of competitiveness.

Moreover, it is also responding to the challenges of globalization by networking with educational institutions and industries both here and abroad to build up its resources and capabilities. the networking will definitely enable Lyceum students to keep abreast with the latest trends and developments abroad without necessarily surrendering the national identity. This is all in pursuit of a redefined sense of nationalism in a globalized environment.

As part of its reinventing efforts, Lyceum is redesigning its educational model to move from a teacher-centered model to a learner-centered one, where the stress is to provide students with tools and resources to pursue their own learning. The idea is to convert Lyceum into a virtual workplace, where students will have to be equipped with skills and flexibility necessary to survive in a globalized world.

Lyceum is likewise re-conceiving the academic model to address the increasing need for continuing education and lifelong learning so that access to education can be done during any phase of one's life. In a way, Lyceum is conceiving its own version of reengineering Philippine education to make it more adapted to the emerging world.

After 50 years, the Lyceum of the Philippine continues to promote a responsible Filipinism in the youthful and to impart skills and training to the students who have crossed its portals. The search for truth will remain unhampared, and the environment of academic freedom will flourish in accordance with Lyceum's motto: *Veritas et Fortitudo.*

President Arroyo to grace Lyceum's 50th Anniversary Celebration

CHIEF JUSTICE DAVIDE AND OFWS TO RECEIVE JOSE P. LAUREL AWARD

HER Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will be guest of honor and convocation speaker at the Lyceum of the Philippines' Awards Convocation on March 7. The ceremony is the highlight of the 50th Anniversary Celebration which begin today, March 1. Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and the Overseas Filipino Workers are this year's recipient of the Jose P. Laurel Award, the most prestigious recognition given by the school.

The Jose P. Laurel Awards is given for selfless to God and country fortified by the unwavering quest for truth and the courage to defend its principles espoused by Dr. Laurel.

The JPL award for Davide cites his outstanding public service to the country and the Filipino people. It refers to his exemplary academic record from the Argao Elementary School to the Abellana Vocational High School and the University of the Philippines Diliman where he finished his Associates in Arts, Bachelor of Science in Jurisprudence and Bachelor of Laws and degrees. While at the UP he received scholarly awards and became member in such academic societies as the UP College of Law's Society of the Purple Feather, Phi Kappa Phi International Honor Society and the Pi Gamma Mu International Science Honor Society.

Davide was a delegate of the Fourth District of Cebu to the 1971 constitutional Convention. There he became one of the committee chairmen and was distinguished by the number of reform proposals he introduced. He later became Assemblyman for the Region VII and Minority Floor Leader in the Interim Batasang Pambansa. While he served there he questioned martial law and the unjust decrees that came with it. He championed human rights and opposed graft and corruption and other social ills through bills, amendments and legislative investigation that be filed and initiated. As a commissioner in the 1986 Constitutional Convention, he made his mark by submitting the most number if resolutions, contributing greatly to the design of the Legislature as Chairman of the Legislative Committee.

As Chairman of the Commission on Election, the gentleman from Argao, Cebu played a key role in the design of clean and credible elections. Republic Act No. 6832 later made him chairman of the Fact Finding Commission that investigated the different coup attempts against the Presidency. The report he co-authored under that commission recommended measures for restoring the military to its proper constitutional role.

As a member of the Judiciary, he led the emergence of an activist court in policing its ranks and initiated a program of judicial reform. Because of this his tenure as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has been called "The Davide Watch".

He is best remembered however, for his strict adherence to order, impartiality and professionalism in his role as presiding officer of the impeachment court that tried then – President Joseph Estrada.

The JPL award for Davide sites his outstanding public service to the country and the Filipino people

The Jose P. Laurel award for the Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW), on the other hand, is given in recognition of his vital economic and national contributions.

In his sacrifice of personal comfort, the separation from loved ones and countrymen, his endurance of the hardship and sometimes even abuse and discrimination that come with his choice to work outside of the Philippines, the OFW has greatly helped reduce domestic unemployment and has generated income for the millions of spouses, children and dependents left at home.

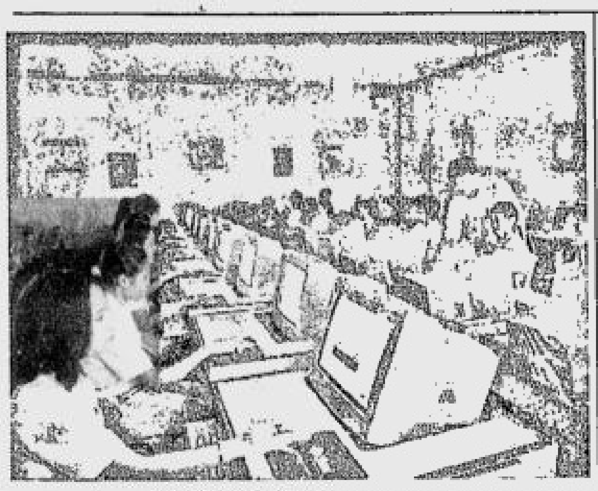
He has contributed to the country's economic well being because of the more than US$ 8 billion in remittance made annually. The OFW sector is the largest foreign-exchange earner in the country and has helped alleviate the Philippine economy's foreign exchange shortage.

The sector's contributions have also stimulated domestic industry because of the increased demand for local goods and services and have domestic employment opportunities both through the purchase of products and because of the investments made by him and his dependents.

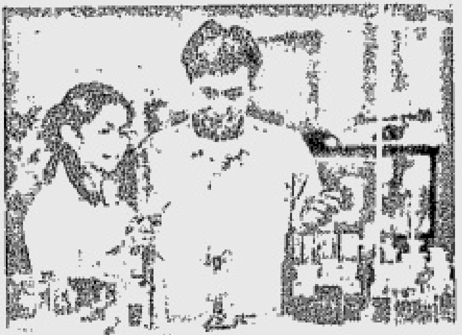
The JPL award recognizes the OFW's meritorious performance on the job that has made the international market view the Filipino worker and professional as worthy of global respect. He has also enriched the country's pool of skills due to the training and experience he has received on the job.

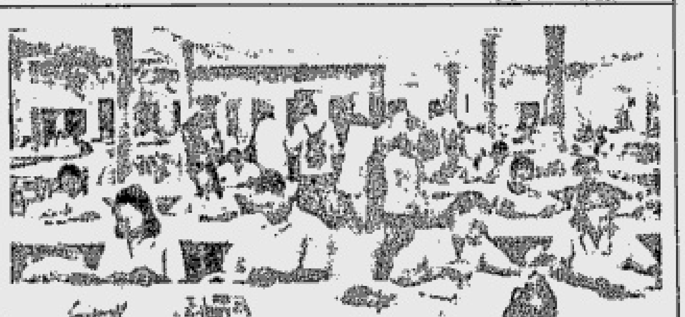
The decision by the Lyceum of the Philippines' Board of Trustees to bestow a sectoral JPL award, a first in the institution's history, is also brought about by the fact that the school itself and its affiliate educational institutions contribute to the overseas manpower and professional pool. The institution have trained future members of the diplomatic corps, information technology specialists, hotel and restaurant and tourism workers, journalists and other mass communications practitioners; business and industry leaders; engineers; and seafarers. The OFWs will be represented by Edgar D. Cabunillas, a 2001 Bagong Bayani Awardee, who will receive the award on his behalf and on behalf of all other OFW's.

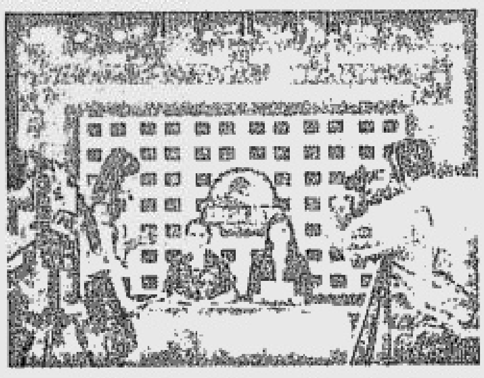
The 50th Anniversary celebration also marks the 111th birth anniversary of the Lyceum of the Philippines' founder Dr. Jose P. Laurel.

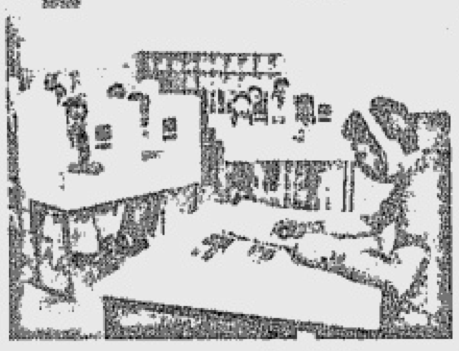


Lyceum brings the workplace into the classroom









The idea is to convert Lyceum to a virtual workplace, where students will have to be equipped with skills and flexibility necessary to compete in a globalized world

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

March 1, 2002 (Friday)
11:15 a.m. - Floral Offering
11:45 a.m. - Thanksgiving Mass
3 p.m. - Parade around Intramuros
4 p.m. - Opening of School Fair
- Opening of Market/ Food Festivals
- Guest Speaker: Sec. Richard Gordon Department of Tourism
4:30 to 6 p.m. - Lyceum of the Philippines vs. Lyceum of Batangas Dual Meet
6 p.m. to 12 mn- Intramuralla Street Party
- Pido with Take One
- Louann & Bobby
- Cocoy Laurel
- Inggo 1587

March 2 (Saturday)
8 a.m. - Parade and Review/ Presentation of Sponsors
1:30 p.m. - Intramurals Championship Games
4 p.m. - LP vs. Ateneo Men's Basketball Exhibition
6 p.m. to 2 a.m.- Intramuralla (Street Party) Baluarte de Dilao
- Campus Battle of the Bands
- South Border Concert
- Dance Party with DJ Ruiz

March 4 (Monday)
8:30 a.m. - Opening of Engineering Exhibits
9:30 to 11:30 - Lecture-Forum on International Relations
- Guest Speaker: Cong. J. Apolinario Lozada Jr.
1:30 p.m. - Academic Contest
3 p.m. - Book Launching and Acceptance of Donation of Will Durant's History of Civilization

March 5 (Tuesday)
9 to 11 a.m. - Lecture-Forum on Mass Media Guest Speaker: Dr. Alejandro Roces
2 p.m. - Blessing/Inauguration of the Philippines First Authorized SunMicrosystem Education Center Lab
2:30 p.m. - Lecture-Forum on Information Technology Guest Speaker: Virgilio Peña President Consultant on IT Affairs

March 6 (Wednesday)
9 a.m. - Opening of Intramuros Photo Exhibit
10 a.m. - Lecture-Forum on Current Issues Guest Speaker: Sen. Jovito Salonga
3 p.m. - Lecture-Forum on Tourism Guest Speaker: Usec. Evelyn Pantig Department of Tourism

March 7 (Thursday)
9:30 a.m. - Lecture-Forum on Philippine-China Relations Guest Speaker: Amb. Wang Chun Gui
- Announcement of the Establishment of China Information Center in the Lyceum of the Philippines in Cooperation with the Chinese Understanding (CAFIU)
5 p.m. - Awards Convocation JPL Individual Awardee: Chief Justice Hilario Davide JPL Sectoral Awardee: The OFW
8 p.m. - Search for Ms. Lyceum

March 8 (Friday)
6:30 p.m. - Grand Golden Celebration (Alumni Homecoming)

March 9 (Saturday)
8 a.m. - Pilgrimage to Tanuan, Batangas

ALUMNI AWARDEES

Erlinda Centeno-Versoza
Associate in Arts 1954
Bachelor of Laws 1958
Former Bar Confidant
Supreme Court of the Phils.

Bayani S. Rivera
Bachelor of Laws 1958
Executive Judge,
RTC Caloocan City

Florencio Z. Sioson
AB Pol Sci 1956
Bachelor Science 1960
EVP, Phil. Veterans Bank

Eliseo P. Dizon, Jr.
Bachelor of Laws 1967
President & CEO,
Philam Plans, Inc.

Jose U. Fernandez
BS Economics 1967
Amb. Extraordinary and
Pleripotential

Macabangkit B. Lanto
Bachelor of Arts 1963
Amb. Extraordinary and
Pleripotantial

Mario S. Garcia
BS Journalism
VP, Radio Veritas Global
Broadcasting System

Milwida M. Guevara
Ph. D. in Fiscal Studies
1995
Former Undersecretary,
Department of Finance

Antonio D. Seva
BS Journalism
Former EVP.
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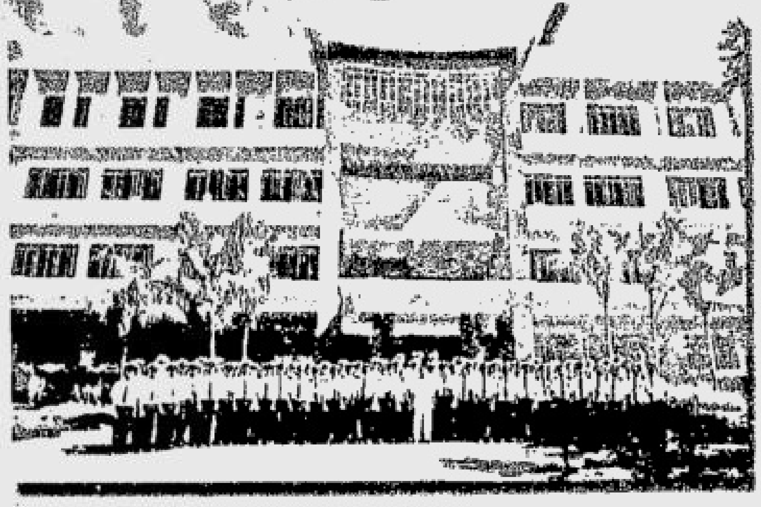

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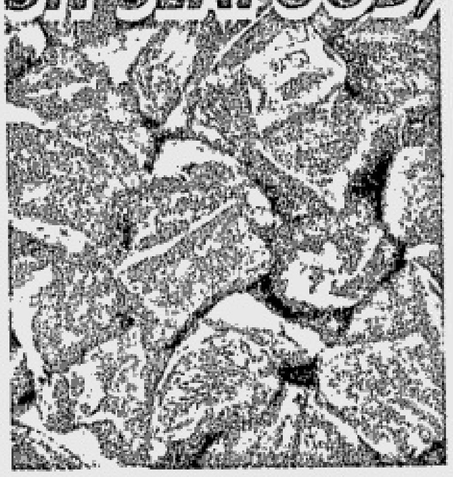

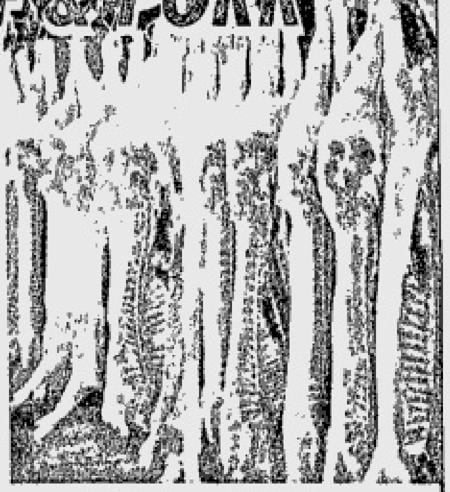

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BUSINESS*Friday*

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Characterize your brand's personality

By Karen V. de Asis

MARKETERS behind many of the world's most powerful brands have spent a great deal of time and effort building a personality into their brands.

A brand like Marlboro is made successful by the American cowboy. McDonald's larger than life Ronald McDonald character gives the brand a spirited human personality. The stylish, enduring Nike brand is represented by real-life health and fitness sports moguls like Michael Jordan, Andre Agassi and Tiger Woods.

This relentless effort to build a brand personality stems from the way consumers relate to products and companies as if they were persons. Consider common reactions like, "I think that credit card company is downright rude in its manner of collection," or "That car dealer's offer seems really sneaky to me," or "That real estate company is not friendly at all."

This tells us that the consumer's mind works in a personality-drive way which all the more necessitates a marketer to rise to the challenge of creating a personality behind the brand.

The brand's personality should convey a clear and distinct image that is at the same time relevant and differentiated from the rest of competition.

Today's highly competitive and globalized environment compels marketers to review their brand's personality or develop one, if they have none. After all, it may be the one and only factor that may differentiate it from competition.

Kevin Lane Keller, a renowned strategic brand management guru aptly defines a brand personality as the values, traits or human characteristics that can be attributed to the brand.

Following are some of the stringent disciplines required to develop a brand.

Create and characterize the brand vision. The key is to create a clear brand vision, definition or identity that is greater than the product's features or attributes

CHARACTERIZE/ C2

DELBERT Rice PHOTO BY BEN MOSES EBREO

From the wild, 'Dagwey' goes to the malls

By Ben Moses Ebreo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

STA. FE, Nueva Vizcaya—It all started as a call to protect the environment, founded by fears of degradation from upland agriculture by indigenous communities in the forest reserves of this town.

But a flourishing food processing business in Barangay Imugan, 7 kilometers from the national highway here, succeeded in blending business and environmental protection, particularly pioneering social forestry approach.

The *dagwey*, a wild fruit similar in appearance to grapes, along with 14 other fruit-based products harvested from the village's dense mountain forests, has become an alternative processed product among Filipinos and customers abroad.

The fruits are processed and readied for marketing in a food processing center managed by the Kalahan Educational Foundation (KEF).

KEF, which established a school for the Ikalahan tribe, gets a share from the income of the food processing center's products to subsidize its operation.

From June to December every year, Ikalahan or Kalanguya tribal folk gather fruits from the forest and process them into jams, jellies, preserves and juices and marketed under the brand name "Mountain Fresh."

The KEF-managed Kalahan Food Processing Center (KFPC) uses *dagwey*, guava, *santol*, passion fruit, *bignay*, *dikay*, ginger, cranberry, pineapple and blackberries. It produces at least 15 cases of these products daily.

Their production increases depending on orders and demand from customers.

Last year, KEF posted more than P1 million in gross sales from selling its products through local and international markets.

Processing center

The KFPC started in 1974 through test processing in a small kitchen that used to be a garage.

"(Our commercial operations) started as an accident in 1980 and we went into full blast commercialization in 1984," said retired Pastor Delbert Rice, KEF director for research and education consultant.

More than 100 Ikalahan locals are involved in gathering raw materials, processing and marketing of the products.

Rice said the involvement of residents minimized the *kaingin* (slash and burn) practices of upland agriculture by shifting their system into sustainable agriculture and eventually into the preservation of the forests.

After its commercialization, the locals thought their raw materials were not enough due to increasing demand. This prompted them to inventory at least 2,000 *dagwey* trees in their surrounding forests and do extensive research to reproduce the species in the forest reserves.

"But not (through) plantation, we do not like plantation because it alters the natural biodiversity of the forest," Rice explained.

A variety of fruit trees were instead planted and scattered within the 15,000-hectare forest reserve, protected as a sanctuary where tribal

FROM/ C2

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Tax-free exchange of property for shares

By Winifredo Y. Limwan
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

GENERALLY, a sale or exchange of assets will have an income tax consequence when it is consummated.

The two main considerations involved in determining whether there is a "sale" or "exchange" are transfer and consideration.

Normally, upon the sale or exchange of property, the entire gain or loss shall be recognized, but not in "tax-exempt sales or exchanges." Section 40(C)(2) of the National Internal Revenue of 1997 enumerates these exceptions to the general rule:

(2) Exception. No gain or loss shall be recognized if in pursuance of a plan of merger or consolidation

(a) A corporation, which is party to a merger or consolidation, exchanges property solely for stock in a corporation, which is a party to the merger or consolidation; or

(b) A shareholder exchanges stock in a corporation, which is a party to the merger or consolidation, solely for the stock of another corporation also a party to the merger or consolidation; or

(c) A security holder of a corporation, which is a party to the merger or consolidation, exchanges his securities solely for stock or securities in another corporation, a party to the merger or consolidation.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) issued Revenue Regulations (RR) No.18-2001 and Revenue Memorandum Order (RMO) No. 32-2001 to implement the provisions of Section 40(C)(2) of the NIRC of 1997.

RR No. 18-2001 provides the guidelines for monitoring the transfer of property for shares pursuant to tax-free exchanges, and prescribes the penalties for failure to comply with the guidelines.

On the other hand, RMO No. 32-2001 revises and updates the requirements and conditions to the non-recognition of gain or loss in transactions.

Under Section 2 of RR No. 18-2001, the substituted basis of the stock or securities received by the transferor in a tax-free exchange shall be as follows:

1. The original basis of the property, stock or securities to be transferred;

2. Less: (a) money received, if any, and (b) the fair market value of the other property received, if any

3. Plus: (a) the amount treated as dividend of the shareholder, if any, and (b) the amount of any gain that was recognized on the exchange, if any.

However, the property received as "boot" shall be based on the fair market value. The term "boot" refers to the money received and other property received in excess of the stock or securities received by the transferor in a tax-free exchange.

Meanwhile, the substituted basis of the property in the hands of the transferee shall be as follows:

(a) The original basis in the hands of the transferor.

(b) Plus: the amount of the gain recognized to the transferor on the transfer.

The original basis of the property to be transferred shall be:

(a) The cost of the property, if acquired by purchase on or after March 1, 1913.

(b) The fair market price or value upon the death of the decedent, if acquired by inheritance.

The rules provide that parties to a tax-free exchange of property for shares should submit the following:

(a) A sworn certificate on the basis of the property to be transferred pursuant to such exchange.

(b) Certified true copies of the transfer certificates of title and/or condominium certificates of title of the real properties to be transferred.

(c) Certified true copies of the latest tax declaration of the real properties to be transferred.

(d) Certified true copies of the certificates of stocks evidencing shares of stock to be transferred.

(e) Certified true copy of the inventory of other property/ies to be transferred.

Lastly, the Certificate Authorizing Registration or Tax Clearance for the real property or share of stock/unit of participation/interest involved in the exchange shall be issued by the Revenue District Officer/Authorized Internal Revenue Officer based on the certification or ruling to be issued by the Commissioner or his duly authorized representative.

The certification says that the transaction is as a tax-free exchange under Section 40(C)(2) of the Tax Code of 1997.

Meanwhile, RMO 32-2001 outlines the procedures for monitoring and investigating the basis of properties transferred pursuant to a tax-free exchange, to determine compliance with the BIR Certification/Ruling.

Admittedly, RR No. 18-2001 and RMO 32-2001 provide for more stringent requirements and procedures for tax-free exchanges. Nonetheless, these requirements make sure that the valuation of properties is accurate, uniform and orderly, and that the bases are clearly indicated on the documents.

This would prevent any questions or issues in case of a subsequent transfer of the properties or stock involved in tax-free exchanges. *(For comments and suggestions, please send an e-mail to sgvmail@Andersen WO)*

Characterize . . .

From page C1

for unfortunately, the latter can easily be imitated. A good brand personality must represent the entire organization's people, culture, program and values, and not to forget—the customer's identity and expectations. It must be based on genuine qualities present in the product, service or company.

A brand personality makes a brand more interesting, memorable and difficult to copy. One, it can easily become a medium to symbolize the customer's identity and two, it represents the organization's people and culture which may emphasize innovation, quality or customer service.

For example, Singapore Airlines' Singapore Girl, one of the best brand personality idea to come out of Southeast Asia, epitomizes the airline's focus on customer service. Or the Energizer bunny, the vigorous, tireless brand personality that keeps on going and going and going just as the battery it symbolizes runs longer than others.

Create the tie that binds, a personality that provides the emotional link with the customer. The essence of this discipline is to define your target audience clearly. The brand personality need not mimic exactly the target audience's description or lifestyle. The brand personality may be aspirational or at the very least must be compatible with the target audience. Whichever way, it must match the consumer's profile and expectations.

The best way is to think about how the product fits into your target audience's life, what emotional needs it satisfies. This makes the brand more relevant and familiar to your target audience, allowing the user to think of the brand as "my kind of product."

A classic example is the Harley Davidson motorcycle which has become more than a motor bike but has transcended to a self-expression, an attitude and experience, a lifestyle and vehicle to express who the rider is.

Harley Davidson motorcycles are not exactly the best functional motorcycles around. In fact, Japanese bikes are far better, more capable of greater speeds, quieter and smoother rides and feature the latest digital features and designs. In contrast, Harley Davidsons are the biggest, heaviest, loudest motorcycles on the road. Ironically, it is this sound, feel and look that capture the brand idea of the "most macho motorcycle on the road" that has largely been a part of the experience and the Harley Davidson phenomenal success.

The Harley Davidson brand personality—a macho, freedom-seeking person who is willing to break out from the mould and confining societal norms of dress and behavior. Ever wonder why Harley Davidson enthusiasts sport tattoos, black leather jackets, heavy boots, gloves, chrome and other macho accessories at Harley rallies?

A positively appealing and likeable, strong visual symbol can help cue the brand personality thus reinforce the brand's attributes.

For example, the cartoon-character symbol of the Pillsbury Doughboy is a likeable symbol that reflects the desired attribute of bakery products which is freshness. The Pillsbury Doughboy represents a brand personality of a happy chef who loves to bake fresh bakery goodies.

Reinforce and sustain the brand personality symbols, experiences and events via a total brand experience. Where there may or not be visual symbols, the brand's personality must nevertheless be integrated to the actual experience with the brand to create a positive relationship between the customer and the brand.

Year 2000 is Apple's comeback year with the brand earning a rank as No. 36 overall and No. 11 in technology in Interbrand's World's Most Valuable Brands survey. The Apple Macintosh brand is perceived by many of its users as friendly, unpretentious, and easy to use. There is massive awareness and recognition of the Mac symbol of a rainbow colored apple with a bite.

One Philippine original brand personality is Jollibee. The name represents "Jolly workers, busy as bees." Its image represents the hardworking Filipinos' love for life and family, captured in images of middle-income families enjoying Jollibee meals, birthday celebrations in Jollibee outlets.

Create a brand personality as soon as you can. It is never too late nor too early to develop a brand personality. An example of a brand in the pre-introduction stage of its service life cycle is Asian Hospital, a soon to open tertiary care hospital in Filinvest, Alabang. Even this early, while at its pre-operation stage, Asian Hospital through its marketing communications efforts, aims to communicate a brand positioning of "patient-centered care in a total healing environment."

This positioning statement has been fleshed out in a brand personality described as a warm, friendly medical doctor with compassion for his patients and passion for his craft.

A doctor much like Patch Adams who firmly believes that his relationship with his patients goes beyond the usual examinations and prescriptions.

Creating a brand personality is by no means an easy task. But you can begin the process by describing your brand in one short paragraph as you would describe a real person. If your brand were to come alive as a person, who would it be, who would it be like, who would it talk to, who would its friends be, where would it live, what would it wear, what places would it frequent...

(The writer is the Director of Marketing of the Asian Hospital and Medical Center and a professor of Marketing Management and Brand Management at the De La Salle Professional School's Graduate School of Business.)

Service is key, personalized one that is

IN spite of the general gloom gripping the tourism and hospitality industries these days, Jack Tuason seems unfazed. While most hotels complain of a continuing downward spiral in occupancy and revenue, Tuason, general manger of Discovery Suites, beams with pride at their remarkable performance, posting a steady increase in occupancy for two consecutive years. The guy is even sporting a slight tan from a recent trip to Boracay with some employees as an incentive for a job extremely well done.

Service, says Tuason, is key in ensuring the consistent patronage of guests, and thus, the hotel's phenomenal success. Going beyond efficiency and promptness, the hotel's staff is trained to give guests personalized service.

"You consistently have other hotels struggling to try and interact with guests to find out their last names. With us the last name is just the start. We want to know if you prefer Diet Coke instead of a regular Coke. We want to know if you like coffee or tea. We want to know whether you like to go for a jog in the afternoon or you like to work out in the gym, whether you use sugar or Nutrasweet. We want to know all the little details. That's what we call personalized service," Tuason explains.

The facilities at Discovery Suites, Tuason admits, predispose it to offer exactly just that kind of service: One that is tailored to the specific needs of every guests. While most hotels tend to just cater to the business

TUASON

and leisure traveler who books from one to four nights, Discovery Suites can accommodate travelers who wish to stay for a night or for an extended stay of two years.

"We're an all suites property so we can cater to a larger segment of travelers," says Tuason. "We do have an excellent kitchen and all the facilities in our suites that somebody would want if they're staying long term." Still, the perks of a five-star accommodation remains an integral part of pampering its guests, says Tuason. "All the premier services in a five-star hotel are very much a part of our operations. We have 24-hour room service, Internet access that's all on the house, cable TV, and daily housekeeping service-all the little treats," he enumerates.

Tuason, insists in going a little further to indulge guests. Discovery Suites takes pride in its service professionals assigned in every department. "Their main task is to do something out of the ordinary that will shock and put a smile on the guests' face everyday—every hour, if possible," explains Tuason. For instance, if an individual wants an extra pillow inside his room, wouldn't it be nice if you deliver the pillow and maybe just put a little chocolate so that the guest can have a little bite of chocolate before he sleeps? Or if there's a problem with the air-conditioning, couldn't the engineer have brought up a pitcher of ice tea because it might have been hot for that moment? These are the things that our service professionals do."

Indeed, the front desk staff regularly invites guests for lunch simply to shoot the breeze and, ultimately, establish lasting friendships. Some have accompanied guests to the malls across the street to go shopping for ties, shoes and other such miscellany—all in the spirit of service and friendship. "I guess," remarks Tuason smilingly, "the weirdest request we've had came from guests who actually wanted to buy rooms here."

Image, Tuason concedes, plays an important part in communicating the hotel's signature brand of service and this is well reflected in the young GM's dressing sensibility. While suits have long been regarded as an armor of sorts to symbolize authority and dependability, Tuason goes the extra mile. There is nothing quotidian, for instance, in his impeccably tailored jacket and trousers. Far from the boxy type, his suit has a definite edge and youthful appeal with its streamlined styling and a silhouette cut close to the body. The orange dress shirt underneath gives a relaxed and approachable quality.

"In the hotel business, the way one dresses counts for a lot. While looks may not be the most important thing, taking care of how you dress up certainly shows an interest in projecting a positive image for the hotel," Tuason rationalizes.

On his feet is a pair of Brass Boot oxford that possesses both classic breeding and up-to-date styling. The shiny surface gleams and highlights the sleek, almost aerodynamic, design of the shoes. "These are very sensible shoes," says Tuason. "They look very fashionable yet they're very functional and durable. On days when I'm especially busy and I have to do a lot of walking around, Brass Boot provides me the comfort I need but at the same time, gives me a stylish edge."

Tuason admits to wearing jeans, tee and a pair of sneakers when he does find time to have a day off. Like your regular dude, his idea of chilling out is watching movies, poring over the latest biographical novel, listening to music, or playing an occasional round of golf. Of course he's on call 24 hours a day even on his day off. And when the alarm sounds, he'll run to answer the call of duty . . . garbed in a suit and a pair of Brass Boot on his feet.

Ticket to growth: Tourism and fishing

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PHILIPPINES has a great potential to grow through its tourism and fishing industries, Spanish economist Juan Manuel Feliz says.

Feliz, program director of the Hispano-Filipino Business Cooperation Program of the Spanish Confederation of Employers or CEOE, has been actively promoting cooperation and dialogue to further strengthen commercial ties between the Philippines and Spain.

Feliz pointed out that the fishing or fishery sector is well developed in Spain and there are areas for collaboration in the design and construction of fishing ports, construction and equipping of fishing boats, cold storage and fish conservation.

Spain, world-renowned for its sardines and tuna, has laid out plans to help boost the Philippines' fishing industry.

These plans came out of the roundtable discussion on fishing hosted by CEOE.

Five of the country's largest fishing and canning companies, through their representatives, joined the roundtable discussion. Feliz, his assistant Teresa Cuerva and Javier Garat of the Federacion Espanola de Organizaciones Pesqueras, represented Spain.

Garat said the roundtable opened up both sides to the opportunities for cooperation in the sector.

Spain, for instance, has some 60 fishing vessels and some of these could be sold to Philippine fishing companies at a discount.

The Filipino fishing and canning companies—RBL Fishing Corp., Frabelle Fishing Corp., SAL Fishing Corp., Kimbal Fishing Corp. and Century Canning Corp.—were particularly keen on possibly purchasing these Spanish fishing vessels.

The companies also expressed interest in forming joint ventures with Spanish companies, sharing data gathering systems and vessel monitoring systems of the EU, technology transfer and jointly exploring Eastern Pacific Philippine waters.

Garat noted that the Eastern Pacific waters have been relatively untapped due to the high operating costs. The lack of infrastructure such as ports and cold storage facilities also discouraged fishing in the area.

Some Taiwanese fishermen, on the other hand, were quick to exploit the riches of Philippine seas.

Spain, however, is helping the Philippines strengthen the patrols through the Fondos de Ayuda al Desarollo.

It has extended soft loans worth $50.3 million to the National Mapping and Resources Information Authority, which was used to acquire a schoolboat to train fishermen and an oceanographic investigation boat to identify fishing shoals and evaluate the richness of fishing grounds.

Spain has also agreed to supply 14 patrol boats for $39.27 million. The patrol boats would be used for the surveillance and protection of fish and marine resources.

From the wild, 'Dagwey' goes to malls

From page C1

elders set aside their 3,500 hectare ancestral lands for the purpose.

The forest reserve covers Barangays Bacneng, Baracbac, Imugan, Unib, Malico and Sta. Rosa.

"This is the very reason we ventured into this busines—to protect the environment," Rice said.

Their research also focused on identifying other fruits that can be processed as jams and jellies.

Struggle

KEF started its marketing in Metro Manila where immediate customers came from wealthy families.

With the rising demand, KEF organizers started to take the products to the market but they failed.

"Everybody here was too shy and did not like to stay in the metropolis," Rice said. "We were sending at least two persons to man the marketing system in Manila, but it's quite difficult."

He said KEF lost almost P1 million when its center and raw materials, including jars and bottles, were destroyed by the July 1990 earthquake.

"But we were able to recover it because we still have most of the harvest season," he said.

The Earthquake Rehabilitation Program (ERP), a special government project put up after the disaster, helped them rebuild their center.

In the previous years, KEF also suffered deficits due to the high sugar content of their jellies and jams that turned off buyers.

"But we are in the process of finishing up a whole line of low sugar jams and jellies from 50 percent to a lower percentage to meet the demand and quality," he said.

"We strictly do not allow any fertilizer and pesticides on the fruits that we use and we do not use chemicals, coloring and preservatives in their processing," he added.

Bright prospects

In 1997, the KEF's networking with non-government organizations involved in upland production paid off.

The Upland Marketing Foundation Inc. (UMFI), a Manila-based organization representing upland product producers in the country, took charge of KEF's local marketing and began selling KEF products on a contractual basis.

About 20 percent of the gross sales went to the KEF.

"That was cheaper than hiring people to stay in Manila," Rice, also a UMFI director, said.

In July last year, UMFI went full blast in exclusively marketing KEF products. UMFPI became KEF's main marketing arm where it set the price for each product.

"We just tell them not to go beyond this (particular amount). We consider, most importantly, the market as far as (our) pricing is concerned," Rice said.

In December last year, KEF and the UMFPI launched its promotion sale dubbed "Pasko Pack," designed as a gift item containing upland products from different producers in the country. These were sold from P200 to P300 a pack.

KEF earned P200,000 as its share from the gross sales. KEF sells its products in various outlets in Northern and Southern Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao, aside from exporting its products to Germany and other countries in small quantities.

Trade fairs in Cagayan Valley and in other parts of the country also helped promote KEF's products.

Rice said supermarkets, such as Shoemart (SM) in Metro Manila, serve as the major outlets of KEF products.

"Some of these supermarkets are dealing with people who buy the products almost wholesale, and they take these home and sell these through their *sari-sari* (variety) stores," Rice said.

A KEF research showed that most of the customers who buy their products are women.

"They go to the supermarkets because they're busy. They have their shopping list and buy fast. When they see our jelly products with our name, they buy these," Rice said.

He said networking efforts are also under way to open up the products' export to Europe and Japan.

"The prices there are very high and we can afford the shipping costs. We are not interested in exporting to the United States because they have a lot of jelly brands there," Rice said.

"It is not easy to introduce products to the public, but somehow we're very lucky because the *dagwey* caught their attention," Rice said.

GE reinvents itself in sleek ad campaign

NEW YORK—GE brings good things to life, according to a classic ad slogan that made the world's biggest company a household name.

Now General Electric is going for a fresh image as it adjusts to life without legendary boss Jack Welch and negotiates a wave of criticism about its complex finances.

The conglomerate used the Winter Olympics—televised by its NBC unit—as a showcase for a new corporate image campaign that positions GE as "a company of ideas"—a company that does a lot more than make light bulbs and washing machines.

Big industry is back, but this time in a sleek, modern and multicultural form. The commercials sport snappy images of X-ray machines, jet engines and satisfied customers and workers from around the world.

GE is touting its industrial and technological might, something that was considered passe by many during the go-go 1990s, says Jack Trout, a marketing strategist at the helm of Trout & Partners Ltd.

"This is the return of the big-time industrialist making stuff, selling stuff—real stuff," he said.

Largely absent from the new ads are references to the company's financial services arm, GE Capital, which contributed a whopping 40 percent of GE's $13.7 billion in earnings last year.

"People understand microwave ovens and sonograms as somehow being useful. (Lending) is not typically the type of thing you associate with corporate munificence," said Bob Garfield, television commercial critic for Advertising Age magazine, and co-host of National Public Radio's "On the Media."

"Jesus didn't clear the temple of the toaster users, he cleared it of the money lenders."

In one of the spots, black-and-white images of GE founder Thomas Edison are interspersed with images of jet engines and trains—all set to the thumping beat of "Around The World" by German pop music group ATC.

Real stuff

Most advertising and marketing executives interviewed gave the GE corporate ads and its main agency BBDO, glowing reviews, using words like "brilliant," "smart" and "on the money."

By burnishing its public image and steering away from complicated financial dealings, GE is reassuring investors and consumers that it won't spring on them the type of accounting tricks that brought down energy trader Enron Corp., they said.

"Enron has had so many repercussions . . . Anything that smacks of phony money, smacks of financial manipulation is going to be suspect," Trout said.

GE recently said it would shed more light on the inner financial workings of GE Capital, which has businesses ranging from Thai auto leasing to credit card operations.

The company took the measure amid general investor fears that Corporate America has overstated profits through bookkeeping finesse.

As American as GE

Advertising and marketing industry insiders see the slick new ads as a departure from what some call feel-good images the company has peddled in recent history.

The ads are also a chance for the company's new chief executive, Jeff Immelt, to infuse the public's perception of GE with his own distinctive flavor, Alan Siegel, founder of brand and marketing consultancy Siegelgale said.

"I see it more as (Immelt's) long-term program to build a brand," he said.

Immelt in September took over from Welch, who earned a sort of corporate demigod status during his tenure at GE.

GE also pounced on the perfect venue to start polishing its corporate image, advertising experts said.

The Olympics spots are a marked departure from the company's accustomed advertising venue of Sunday morning talk shows aimed at so-called "thought leaders" or the "power crowd," observers said.

Studies show viewers react more favorably toward companies that advertise during the international games, said Andy Donchin, director of national broadcasting at media agency Carat.

"With the mood of the country, the heightened patriotism, corporate image is very important," Donchin said. *Reuters*

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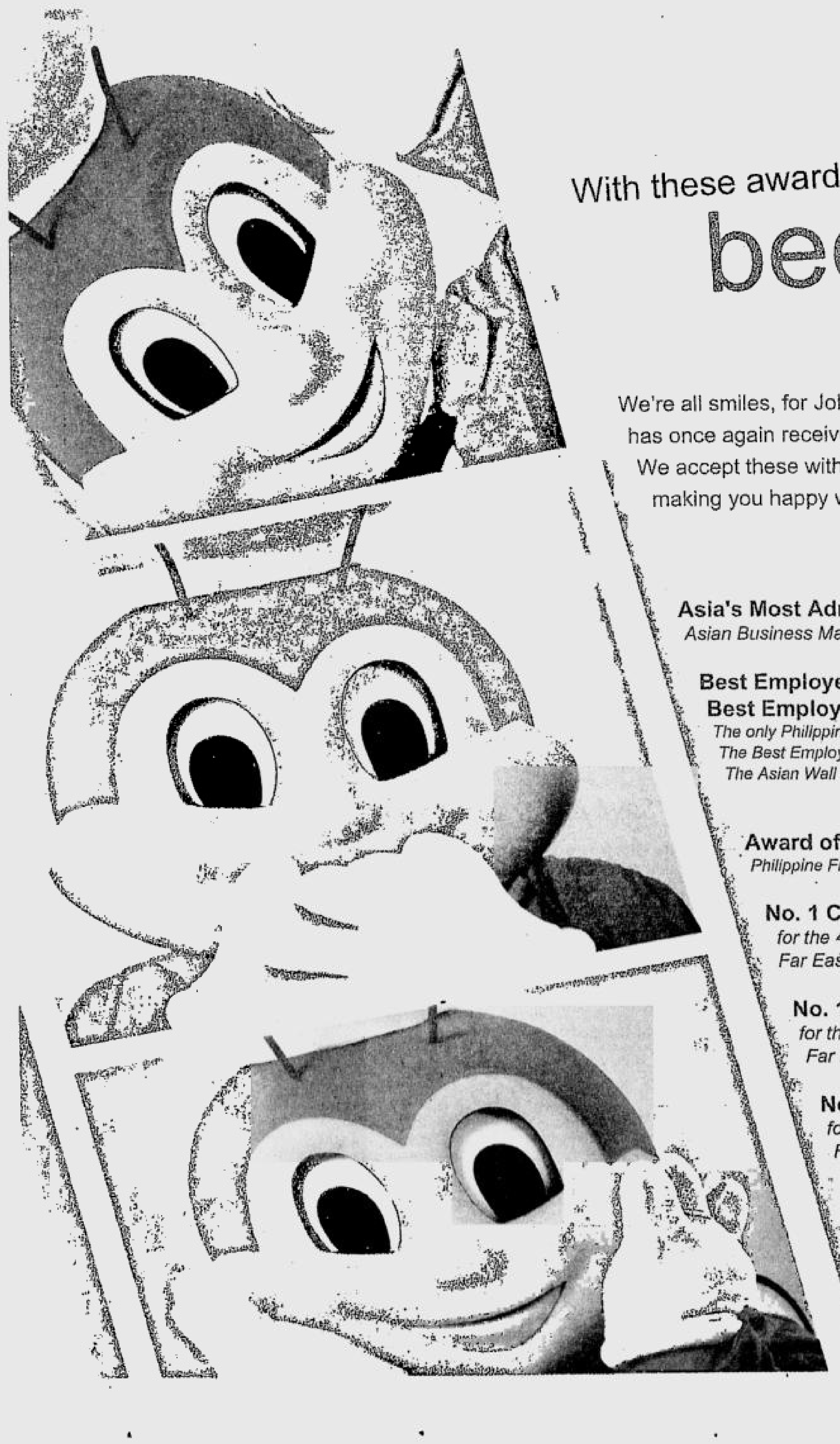

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Slowly saying goodbye to 'no return, no exchange'

NAZARETH

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES was one country where the "no return, no exchange" sign could be seen in almost all malls. Many have also experienced getting defective merchandise and not complaining about it. Those who did ran into a lot of trouble before they getting a replacement.

Very few stores had staff trained to handle customers' complaints.

Thus was the state of customer service in the country. Of course there used to be only a handful of retailers so competition was not as stiff and customers had no choice but to put up with bad service.

With the evolution of Manila into a malling society and the liberalization of the retail industry allowing big foreign retailers in, things are finally looking up for the Filipino consumer.

Most merchants in malls now accept returns on merchandise and retailers also now put emphasis on proper training of staff to better assist the consumers.

Despite these innovations, it is still a long way to go before the Philippines can develop a culture of customer service, but it is definitely starting.

Ayala Malls

One of the malls leading the way toward improved customer service is the Ayala Malls, the retailing arm of the conglomerate Ayala Corp., under the line "Because You Deserve More."

Winnie Nazareth, Ayala Land assistant vice president for commercial centers group, said in a statement that the campaign aims to improve the fundamentals of shopping in the country via efficient new age ideas.

FILIPINOS can soon expect better service

"Ayala Malls are known to be committed to innovative efforts ... always bringing something new into the malls. We want to give them more than what they expect ... things they will only find here for the first time," Nazareth tells Business Friday.

One of the latest offerings is the new and improved interactive website—ayalamalls.com.ph.—which wants to give both the basics and extras to the target market—shoppers and merchants (ages 18 to 35) who have access to the Internet and e-mail.

Click on the website and customers can get news and information, as well as the hottest movies on screen and the newest stall in each mall.

Customers can also do their shopping online through the website, as well as put in their suggestions and complaints regarding the mall's tenants or the mall itself.

"Instead of the usual phone calls, this gives an alternative form of communication between us and our clients. We get to give them more information in a more efficient and convenient way," she says.

"Being connected is one way of being close to our consumers and reaching out to them. We definitely want to hear from them. Through communication we can better fulfill our part of the deal," Nazareth adds.

The interactive website is just the latest in the series of efforts to improve customer service in the Ayala Malls.

Previous innovations include the Ayala malls discount card plus, the installation of lounges for men and women and interactive terminals to help customers find their way around the mall.

Tan-Gan

One retailer that put importance into customer service since it began its operations was Lulu Tan-Gan, owner and creative force behind Tan Gan, a line of knitwear for today's active females.

Tan-Gan says she considers customer service very important because she is a shopper herself and she knows what it feels like to get substandard service.

"I want my customers to be satisfied because I buy myself and I get irritated if I don't get the service that I feel I deserve. So I make sure that we put customers needs at the top by producing quality merchandise, and by training our staff to help customers," Tan-Gan says.

Aside from producing quality products, Tan-Gan also accepts repairs for knitwear, even if it is not from the store. Tan-Gan says she does it for the service, and not for the money and it has helped develop a loyal following for the retailer.

"We are able to do these repairs for that special item that a customer brings in because we are also a manufacturer. We can do repairs within a week and we heard that it has helped a lot of people," she says.

She also gives way to requests of customers for custom fit knit wear, although they are limited to changing the width and the length of a product.

"It is always a problem of ready-to-wear companies to produce a piece that would fit a customer because we cannot make 10 sizes of one shirt, but we can produce it if someone asks. They can also choose a color as long as it is in our chart," Tan-Gan says.

Despite steps made toward providing customer service in the country, there is still room for a lot of improvement.

Although the law states that a customer can return a product within a certain time frame, stores give customers who do this a tough time.

But with foreigners coming in and bringing the quality of service they provide in their home countries, the quality of customer service is expected to change soon.

The government agency tasked with protecting consumers is the Bureau of Domestic Trade and most shoppers do not know it but they can actually file cases against erring store owners.

TAN-GAN

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Private Joyce in Fantasia

STORY ON PAGE D5

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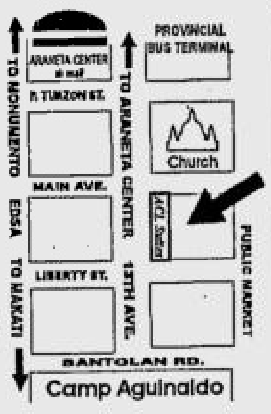

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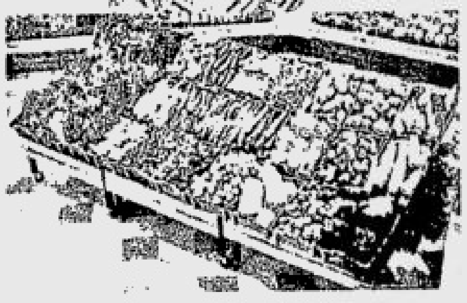
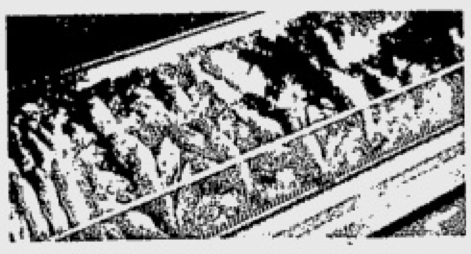
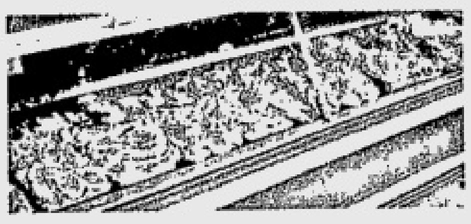
Starting this new year season 2002, SM Supermarket launches its new TLC Fresh look...



...with towering fresh fruit presentations and abundant garden fresh vegetable greens from its "Produce Selectibles".



...with snapping clams, live crabs and splashing tilapias Live Daily from its Fresh Catch-of-the-Day "Seafood Selectibles".



...with an impeccable array of quality chops, steaks and ribs, to marinated shishkebabs and slivering cuts of sukiyaki tenderloins from its "Carnivore Selectibles".

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Tilapia • Medium	P50.00/kg.	Reg. Price 52.00
Carrots • Medium	P28.00/kg.	
MONTEREY Babyback Ribs	129.00/kg.	Reg. Price 140.00
Pusit Lumot	P115.00/kg.	
Sweet Corn	P23.00/kg.	
MONTEREY Porkchop	P110.00/kg.	
Potato	P21.00/kg.	
Banana Lacatan	P22.00/kg.	
SM BONUS Pork Kasim • Skinless	120.00/kg.	Reg. Price 130.00
Cabbage Scorpio	P28.00/kg.	
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Ingredients:

4 pcs.	Monterey T-Bone Steak
1/4 cup	Worcestershire Sauce
2 tsps.	Rosemary
1 tbsp.	Brown Sugar
1 tsp.	Catsup
1/2 tsp.	Salt
1/2 tsp.	Pepper
1/4 cup	Butter

Procedure:

Marinate beef in worcestershire sauce, rosemary, sugar, catsup, salt & pepper for 15 minutes. Grill steak over medium heat and cook according to preference (medium rare, well done, etc.) Just before serving, pour the melted butter over the cooked meat.

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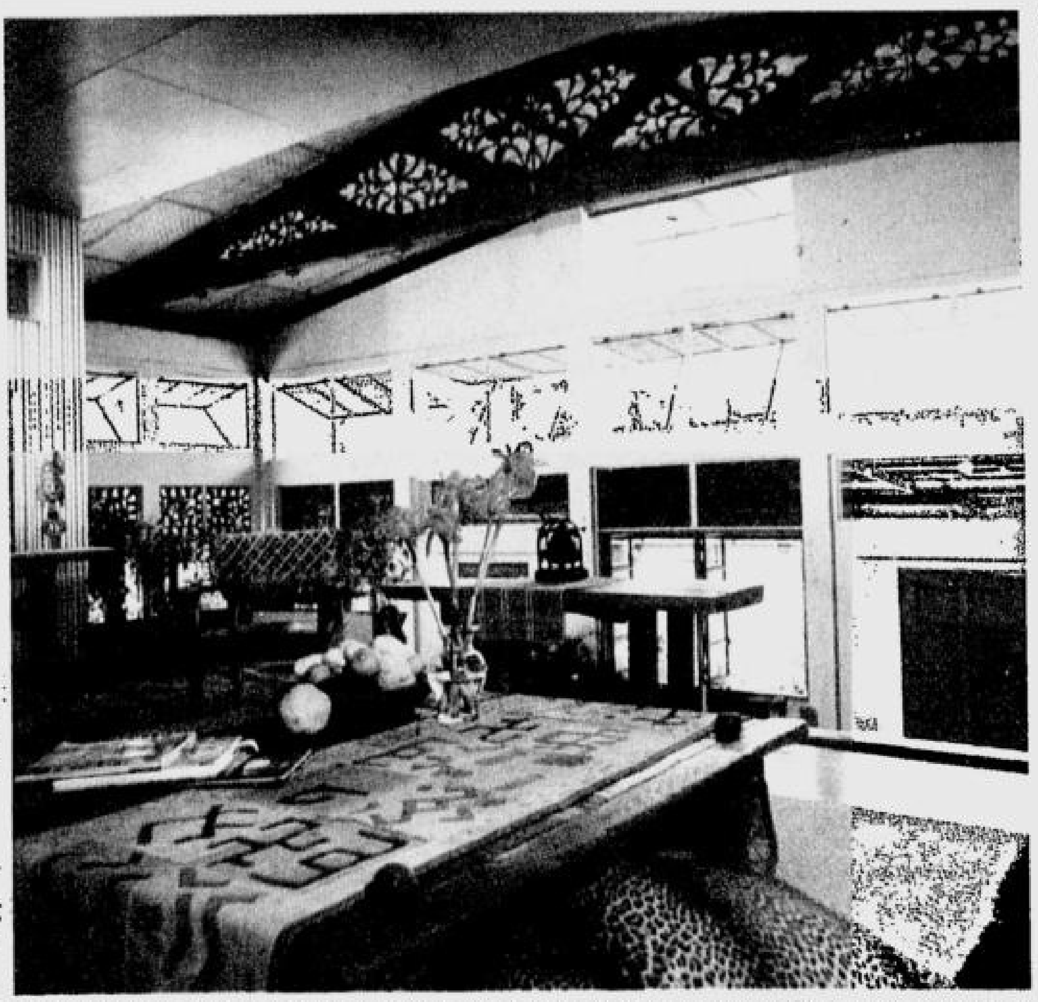
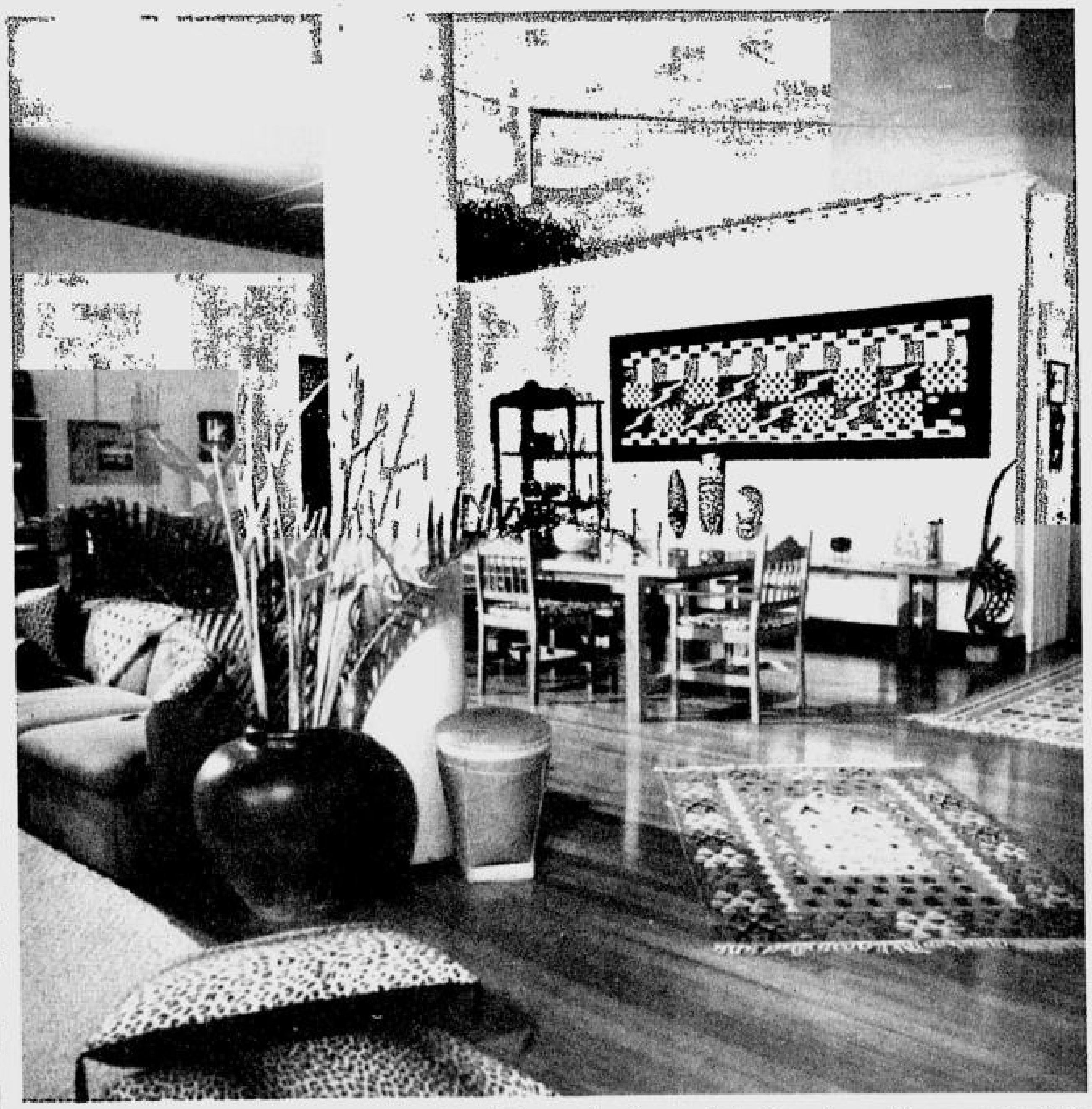
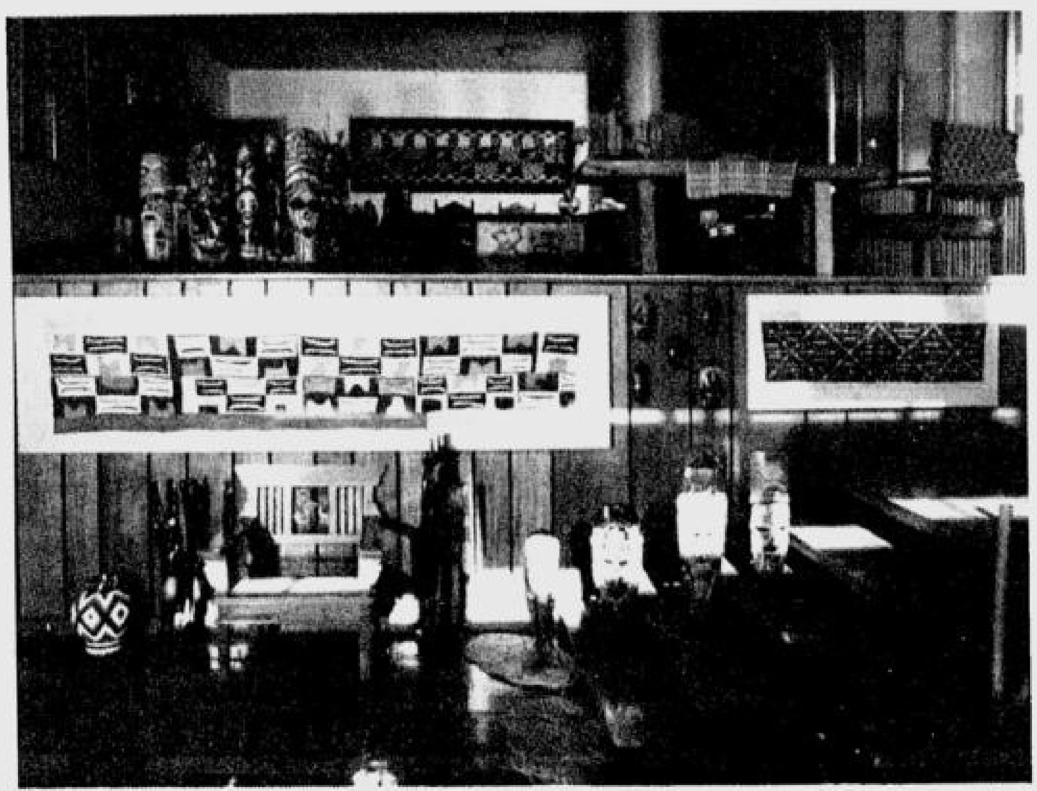


THE LIVING area is a testament to the couple's synthesis of tastes. Windows are generous in width as awnings are in depth. The home is sheltered from the intensity of heat and rain by these architectural appendages. Arched in the middle of the *sawali*-lined ceiling are traceries in wood, home-carved by the resident carpenter employed by the couple. A piece of raffia cloth is draped over the coffee table in the foreground where a pile of books on African art is neatly arranged.



AMAZING is the confluence of tones—camel on beige, sand on brown, alabaster on taupe. The geometry of the African weave is traced to specific patterns that each family develops and passes on to daughters. The happy blending of African influences with the Asian tropical setting is embraced in this high-ceilinged home. The tapestry on the wall has a dynamic design equally suited to this cozy living area and a corporate boardroom. Traditional Philippine narra dining chairs stand beside a buffet table. Potted palms sit in the foreground.



THE FRAMED textiles mark the edge of the wall of the upper living area. Asymmetrical arrangements of various African antiques define the points of visual interest. Masks and representative figures stir the senses, bringing enchantment indoors.

House reflects harmony of cross-cultural marriage

The home of the Guerreros is a vision of how the couple has lovingly cultivated the mingling of their cultures and traditions

By Cathy Saldaña-Nolido
Contributor
Photos by Wahoo Guerrero

WHEN Xavier "Wahoo" Guerrero moved into this home in the middle of the metropolis, he and his wife Valerie inherited not just a massive, solid structure, but also a joyful treasure of fruit-bearing trees, clustered in the corners of a garden beside a pool. The house was built by Wahoo's grandfather who was among the pioneers in the production of concrete hollow blocks in the Philippines. It was basically a warehouse, standing firmly with A-frames and four corners spread out on three levels. The structure was originally enclosed, with few windows and openings.

As Wahoo and Val set out to make it into their home in the city, renovation became necessary to allow cross-ventilation.

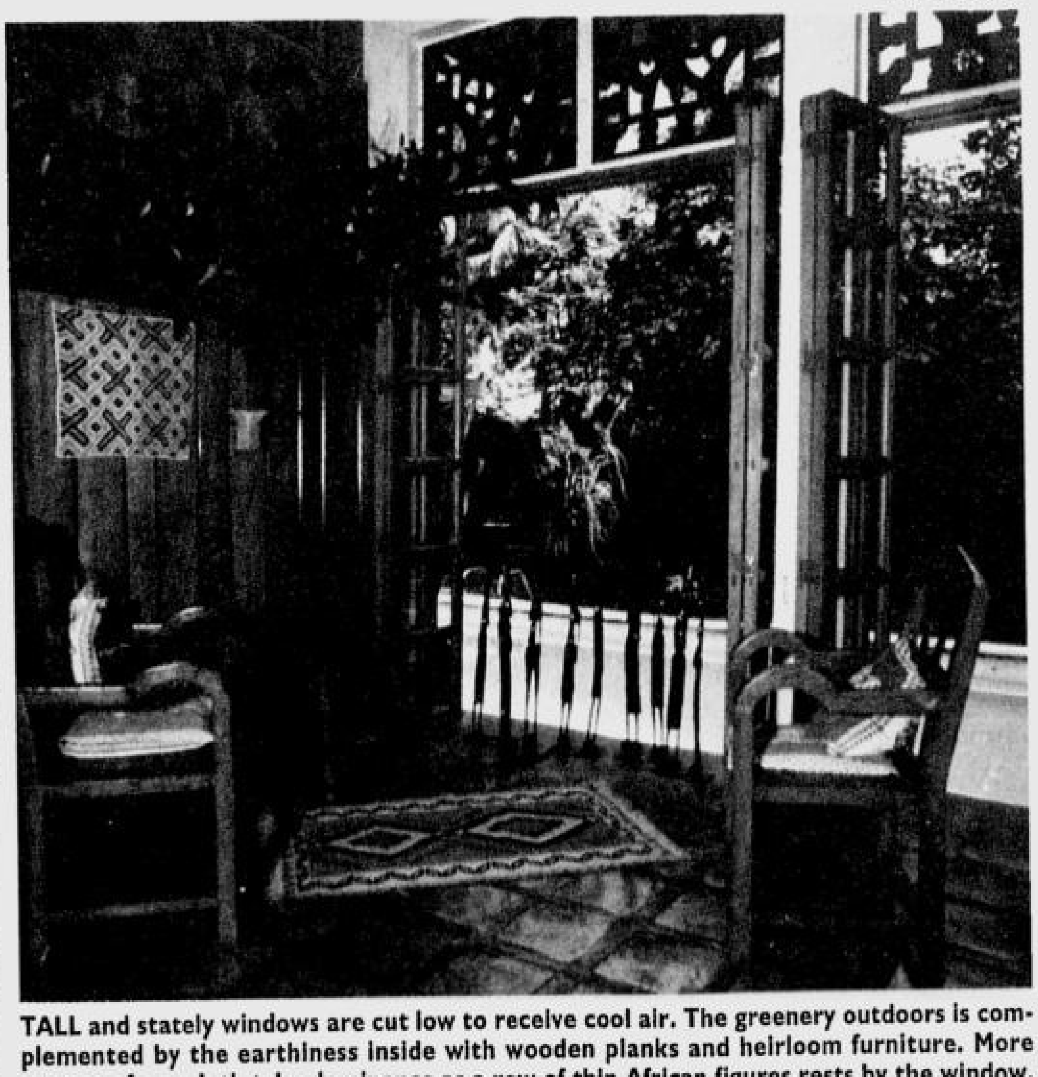
Windows were enlarged, wide awnings protruding to shelter the home from the summer heat and the harshness of rain. A decidedly Balinese touch was added with gardens that can be viewed from every part of the second level entertaining area. As the couple's ideas took wings, a vernacular, tropical style emerged. The trusses were wrapped and tracery inserted, while carved wood arched along the entire span of the ceiling, lending character and grace to the *sawali*-lined surface.

Cross-cultural

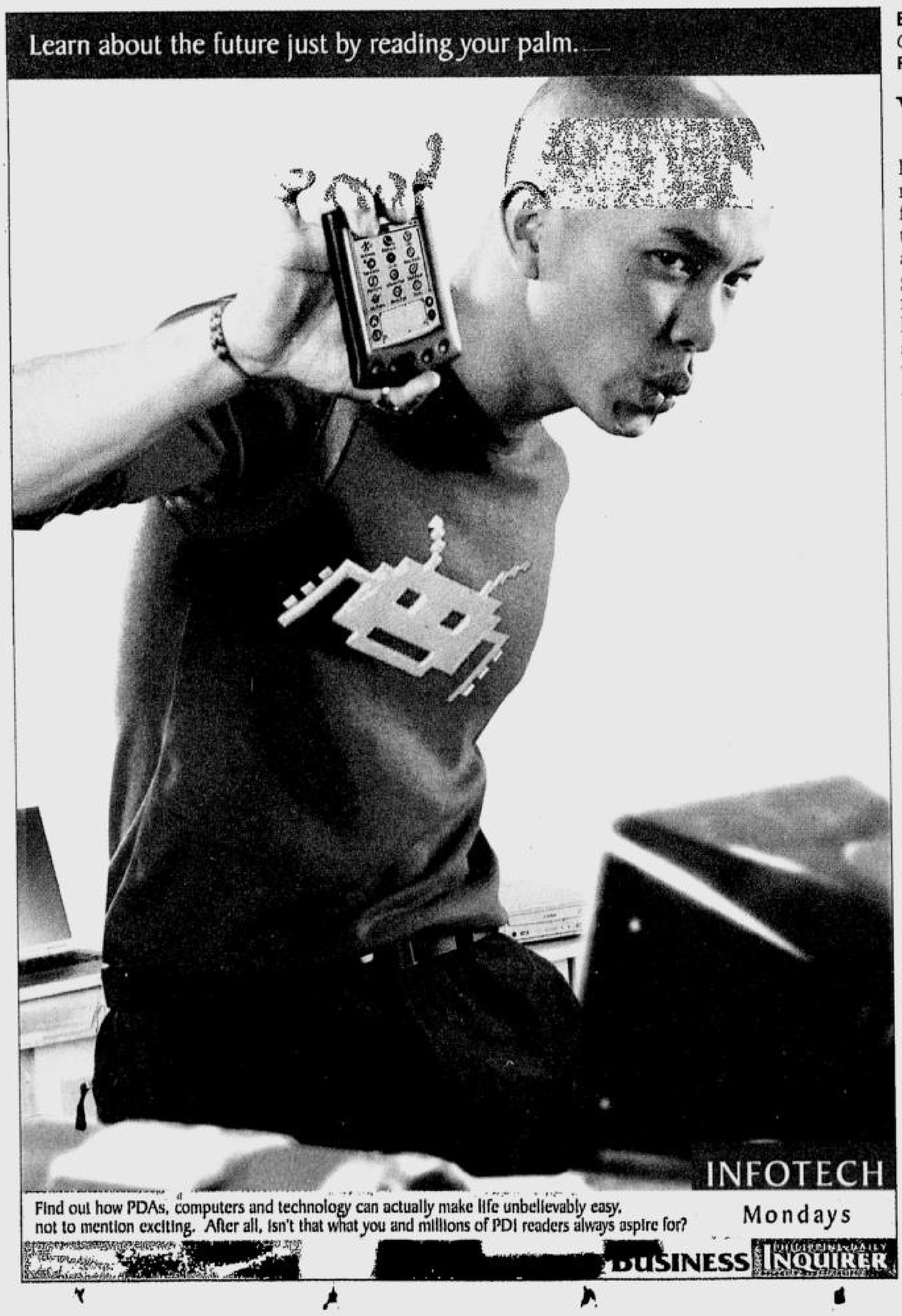
The home is a distinct merging of Asian and African styles. It bears the spirit of the couple's cross-cultural marriage, with narra chests and dining sets, Balinese weaving tables and African pieces coming together. A sense of history and love for tribal crafts are reflected by the unique textile collections. From the Kingdom of Kuba come African tapestries of woven raffia, glimmering and soft to touch, delightful to the eyes in their variegated patterns and geometric interplay. Coming mainly from Central Congo, the pieces that Wahoo and Val have gathered are prized textiles handwoven using a traditional method passed on from ancient generations. Val's South African lineage shines through unique pieces brought back to the Philippines after every visit to the country of her birth. The annual pilgrimage has brought back an assortment of figures, antiques and a wealth of tapestries.

The uniqueness of the couple's accent pieces is most evident in an authentic fertility

HOUSE/ p.D3



TALL and stately windows are cut low to receive cool air. The greenery outdoors is complemented by the earthiness inside with wooden planks and heirloom furniture. More patterns from cloth take dominance as a row of thin African figures rests by the window. A fertility statue is perched on its own podium.



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BUSINESS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

House reflects harmony of cross-cultural marriage

From page D2

icon that is over 100 years old. Resting on its own pedestal in the lower living area, this piece has been known to work wonders, resulting in pregnancies for many friends and relatives who have visited the Guerrero home. "It is an antique piece," says Val.

The tapestry collections have been patiently framed using a handsewn technique that Val has learned. The rich designs of the Kuba tapestries are "representational expressions of nature, if woven by a man, and are essentially rectilinear and geometric expressions without any direct representation, if woven by a woman." In richly laid velvet, cut-pile or in softened raffia, the yards of cloth, whether hung on the wall or laid on a table or couch, are truly works of art that a discerning eye cannot fail to appreciate. This has prompted Wahoo and Val to hold an exhibit and sale of the tapestries, including perhaps an assortment of other tribal art pieces from Africa.

Safari colors

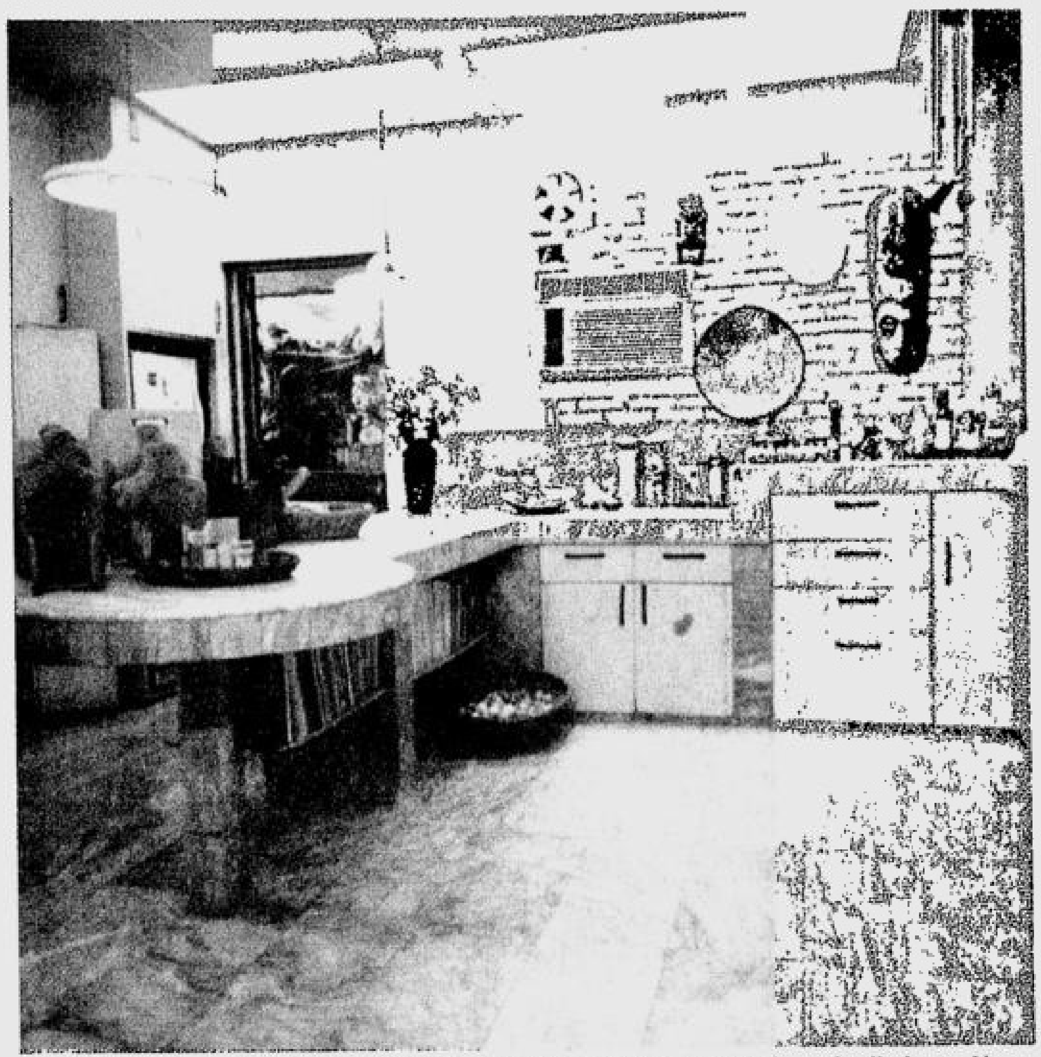
A love for the outdoors is reflected in the potted palms that dot the corners of the home, sharing space with favored pieces collected from different parts of Asia and the country. The safari adventure spirit is evident only in the colors used in the home—rich khaki, camel, rust, beige and sand. The house does not have a collection of animals, but the television set is almost permanently tuned to the family favorite National Geographic Channel. Regularly, Wahoo, Val and their daughter go on a safari, if only to take in the sights and sounds of Africa.

The richness of dark wooden figurines and clusters of African masks are echoed in other collections throughout the home. Mingling with baskets from northern Philippines and lamps handcrafted by an artist friend, the pieces bestow on the couple's home a unique and highly calming quality.

In the garden, the fruit trees—coconut, *macapuno*, *sineguelas*, mango, star apple and *santol*—are nurtured, standing side by side with stately narra and *balete* trees.

The home, captured through the lens of its own master, is a vision of how the couple has lovingly cultivated the mingling of their cultures and traditions. Inspired by the heritage of the past, Wahoo and Val are moving ahead

HOUSE/ p.D4



INDULGE in a cross-continental cuisine spread among a collection of tribal art. Here, Val and Wahoo cook up delightful feasts that conjure the tastes of South Africa. Various chopping boards are stacked vertically, merging wood with marble, flowers and chimes. Natural light radiates through the translucence of the sky roof.

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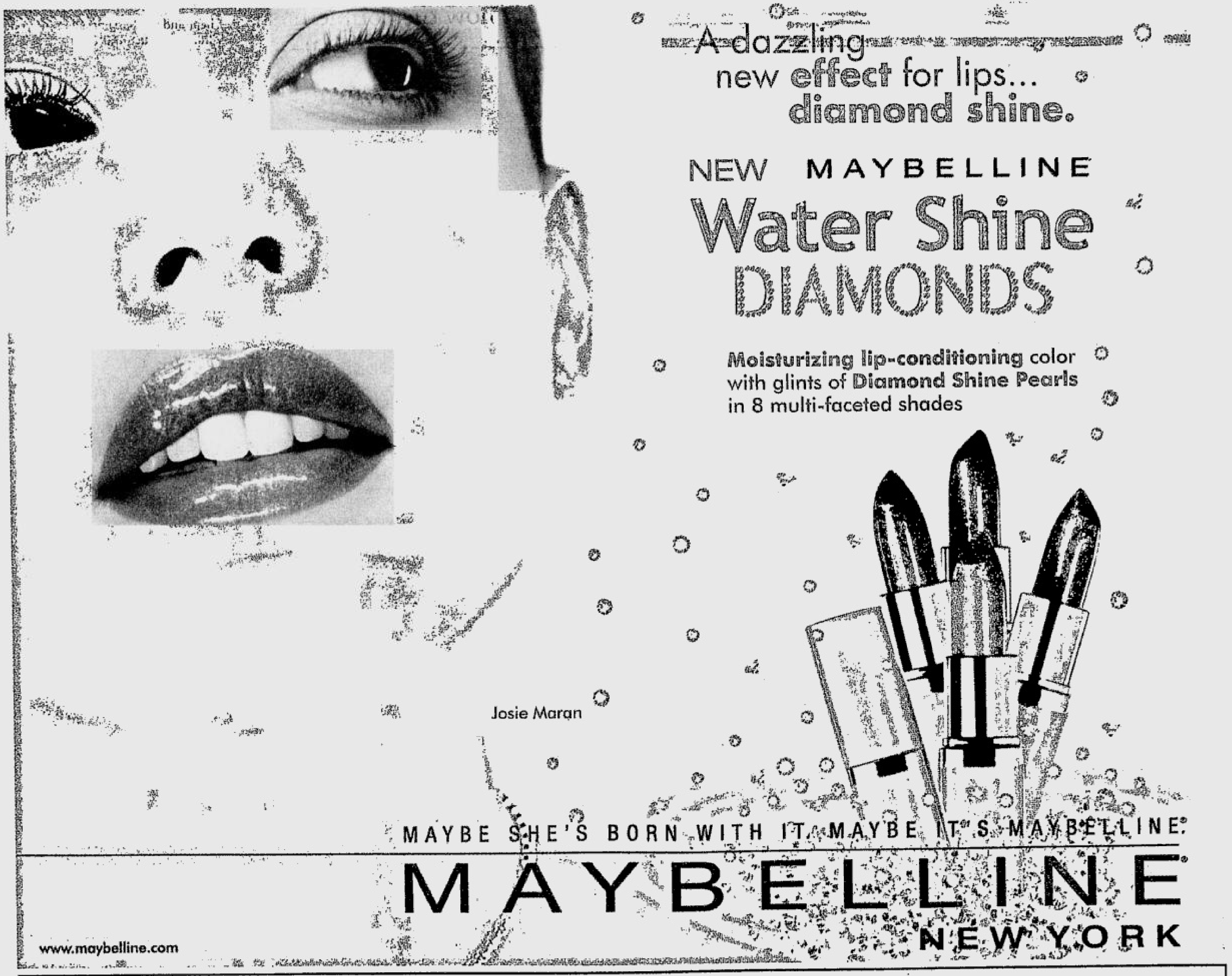

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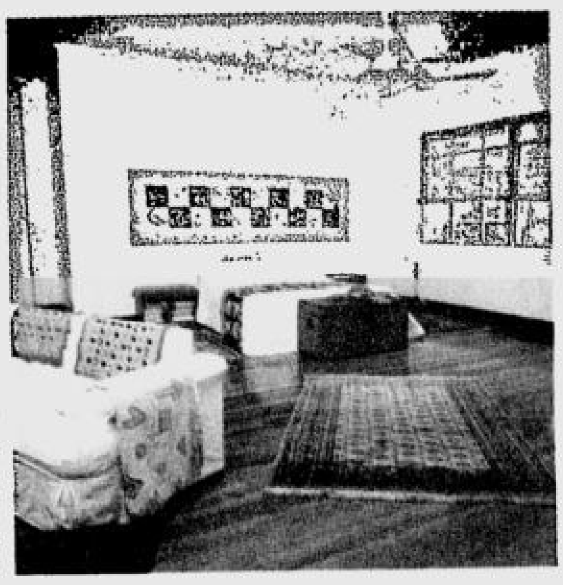
House reflects harmony of cross-cultural marriage



THE POETRY of patterns emerges from the assemblage of tapestries. Delightful in earth tones, the woven pieces pay tribute to Val's African heritage. A Persian rug hugs the wooden floor as soft furnishings in white are visually sliced by interesting textile pieces.

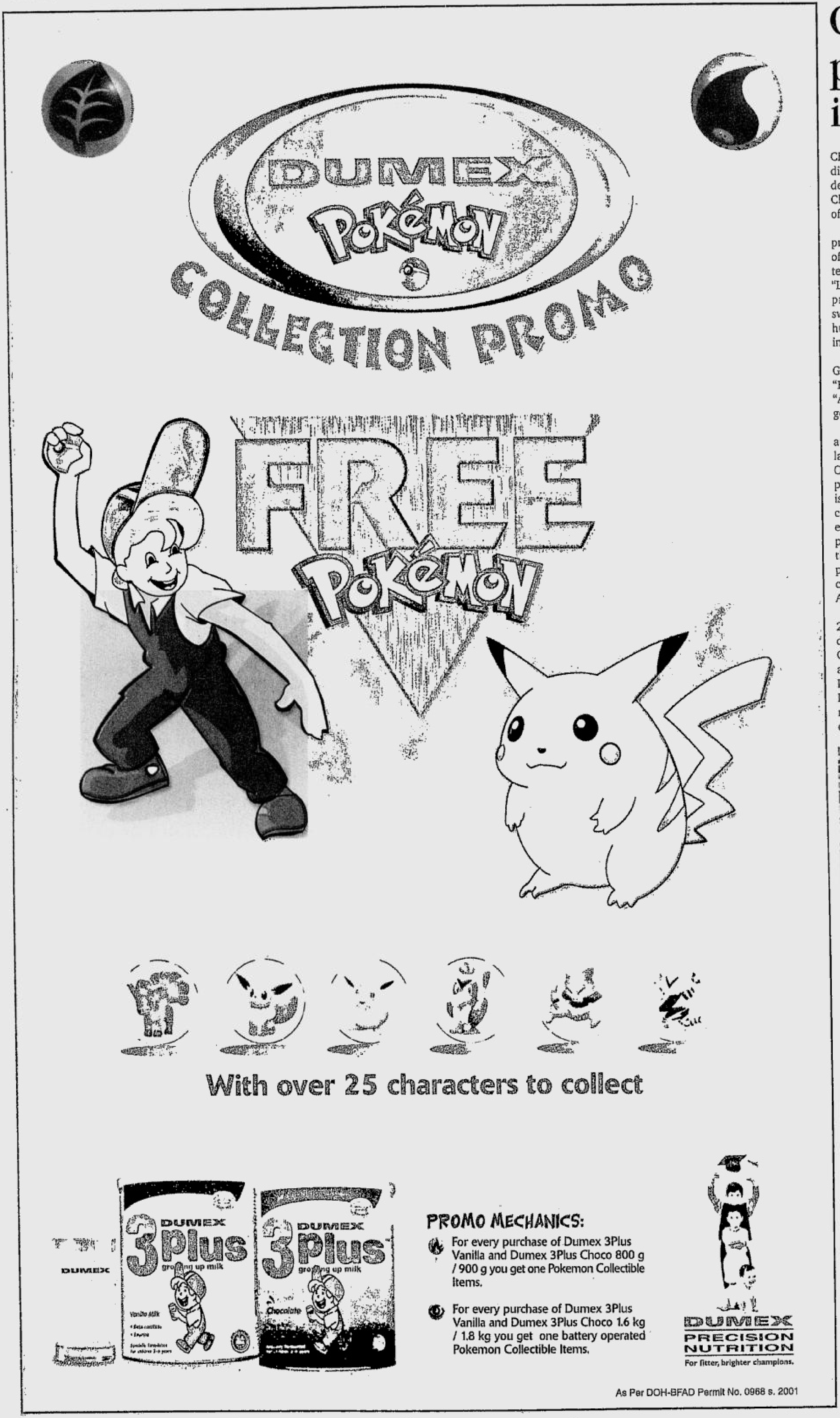
From page D3

with their renovation plans, planning a series of additions and alterations to be undertaken soon. The merging of minds and hearts continues as they mix Asian and African influences, creating a cozy and graphic harmony that reflects their own marriage. The Guerreros have successfully blended their individual styles in a home that speaks of true romance and adventure, generating a character that essentially took root in the spirit of their lifestyle, characterized by a complete union of colors, patterns and textures, preferences and aspirations.

African accessories for sale. Call Val at 724-6384

E-mail the author at cnolido@aimonline.org

THE INTERMINGLED culture showcases the timelessness of natural hues and ethnic patterns, gracefully blended through the years in this work-in-progress, the Guerrero home.



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Creating paradise in Alabang

CHARIE and Mariles Mercado's "Lover's Paradise" won the first prize in the 9th annual garden show of Ayala Alabang Village's Garden Club. A bamboo loveseat was the focal point of their simple but elegant display of plants.

Carmen Alonso's team garnered second prize. "Piccolo Paradise" was an arrangement of multicolored bougainvillas that had a Mediterranean air. Joyce Kato's group produced "Lil' Tots Paradise Gardens," which won third prize. It was a whimsical display of elves, swings and a barrel tunnel sprinkled around a huge mango tree wrapped in sumptuous-looking plants.

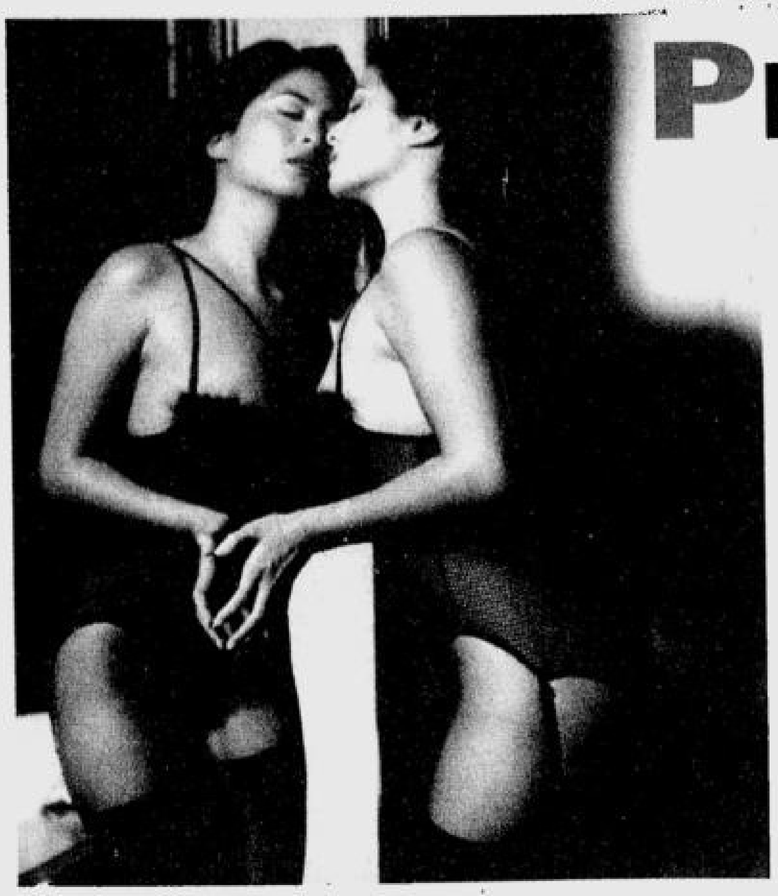
The prizes for "Best Plants" went to Dr. Greg Alvior who bagged both first prize for his "Euphorbia Millii" and second prize for his "Agave Filifera." Rory Francisco's "Bromeliad" got the third prize.

Judges for this year's show were among top authorities in the fields of horticulture and landscaping, led by the Club's first president, Oding Reyes.. The panel of judges were composed of Serapion Metilla, noted horticulturist, considered the father of Philippine garden clubs; Noni Dolera, international judge and exhibitor at garden shows in Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia; Fely Gupit, president of the Natural Stone Society of the Phils. and past president of the Bonsai and Ikebana Societies; and Zac Sarian, veteran editor of the Agriculture Section of the Manila Bulletin.

The Garden Club's officers for Year 2001-2002 were under the able leadership of president Agnes Valencia, vice president Dr. Bien Cabral, secretary Joanna Caluglug and her assistant Marisol Tugade, treasurer Norma Lustre, assistant treasurer Zeny Alcaraz, PRO Denden Quirino, assistant PRO Titang Montinola, ex-officio Louie Rodriguez and the chair of the show, Bien Cabral.

FIRST prize, "Lover's Paradise"

Private Joyce *in Fantasia*



GOING narcissistic in this black body shirt with feathers and gartered stockings

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Jun de Leon
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ANTONIO SALAC SANTOS

SCANTILY clad in leopard-printed lingerie, Joyce Jimenez is perched on the windowsill of an ancestral home, clinging to the grills like an animal about to fall on her prey. She looks like a sex kitten on the loose until she burps successively. The belch sounds more like a cow bellowing.

"Excuse me!" corrects photographer Jun de Leon as he sets up his lights.

"Nasira na 'yung Fantasia ng Bayan," Joyce jokes. Her eructations shatter the illusion of her being every man's fantasy.

"Naging Bangungot ng Bayan," jests creative director Tonton Santos.

Joyce laughs it off, as she is not afraid to show her vulnerabilities. The belch isn't the only thing that debunks her screen goddess image. In pictures and movies, Joyce looks taller and fuller. Up close, the bespectacled actress has a tiny frame of 5'2" with an American size 0 or even double 0. However, it does not belie her hearty appetite and in the true Libran fashion, her weakness for Ferrero Rocher chocolates and Almond Roca nougats.

In many of her roles, Joyce is portrayed as a bodacious dullard. In person, she is streetsmart and far-sighted in her goals. Young at 23, she has laid out business plans and even started her retirement program.

Contradiction

Indeed, Joyce is a study in contradiction. Although she has unabashedly bared her body and her feelings to the public, some aspects of her are still concealed like a treasure in a cave.

Her curvaceous figure or her cleavage alone can get any male to wet his pants. But ask her to project lust, her face remains as demure as a 7-year-old that's nervous about taking her first Holy Communion. Ask her to unleash her animal magnetism, Joyce doesn't do it literally and even restrains her emotions. Either she needs more acting lessons or she just keeps people guessing about what the real Joyce is like.

This is why the pictorial of the actress, modeling her new lingerie line called Private Joyce, is a study in black and white. Her favorite photographer, De Leon, captures the mysterious aspect of her persona. The backdrop, the former Panlilio residence in Cavite, which is now the De La Salle Museum, serves as an allusion to the old-fashioned values of the actress, who, on the contrary, is commonly known for her lack of inhibitions.

Joyce has just wrapped up her movie with Piolo Pascual, temporarily titled "Sweetheart," for Regal Films. She says she can put "110 percent" of her energies on her new venture, Private Joyce Collections. This is the third project of Fantasia ng Bayan Inc., her company with her manager Shirley Kuan. The lingerie will be launched at the Hotel Inter-Continental's bridal fashion show on March 7 and will be sold at the Sari-Sari Stores.

Fantasia ng Bayan Inc. has produced the limited edition of Private Joyce the Magazine and her 2001 calendar. Both were said to have been successful, especially the former, which was even sold for a hefty price in the black market.

In the two ventures, Joyce merely provided some capital for the production costs and modeled. She admits she's clueless about production costs and the sales figures of the book and calendar. Nonetheless, the psychic income from the book and calendar gave her courage to outdo herself by going into retail.

First venture

The Private Joyce Collections will be her first venture where she is hands-on from the concept to the production. "It's not like I laid out my money and said, *'Bahala na kayo!'*" she says. She wouldn't invest on this venture if she herself didn't see the market potential.

It all started out with her fetish for undergarments. "Let me be short on everything, but not underwear. When it gets hot in shootings, you just don't use one underwear," she says.

Her favorite styles are the cotton bikinis and lightly padded bras with underwire. It's not that like she needs the added padding and the lift as she is well endowed with a cup size that varies from 34-C to 36-A. "It's more for the support," she explains.

The collection includes undergarments and loungewear. The modestly priced apparel is made in Hong Kong. The pricier ones are sourced in Europe. "It's not merely high-end or low-end. I want it to appeal to everyone," she says.

Joyce must have studied every catalogue and lingerie store in her hometown Los Angeles to know what's chic or not. She tries on the prototypes for fit and quality control and approves the styles.

"What I love about this job is that I get ideas from other people. I don't just buy according to what I want. I see the perspective of other people and get to understand their lifestyles and what is comfortable to them," she says.

There's also the difference between shooting Joyce the bombshell and Joyce the image model. In the past, Joyce's photographs in dishabille aimed to titillate the Filipino male. Now the pictures aim to entice women to make a run for Sari-Sari.

"You're shooting what I'm selling. It's hard. You're more concerned with how the lingerie looks and the way it fits on the body," she says.

Any business takes time before there's a return on investment. For now Joyce is living on her talent fees which run the seven-figure range. She gets her earnings from doing at least three movies a year, her regular sitcom and appearances.

How much is she worth?

"I'm not liquid. It's all investments. If you are going to kidnap for ransom, I'm not the person you should be aiming for. You're going to get a lot of investments, not liquid assets," Joyce replies.

Aside from Fantasia ng Bayan Inc., Joyce has put her money in cars and a condo-

PRIVATE/ p.D6

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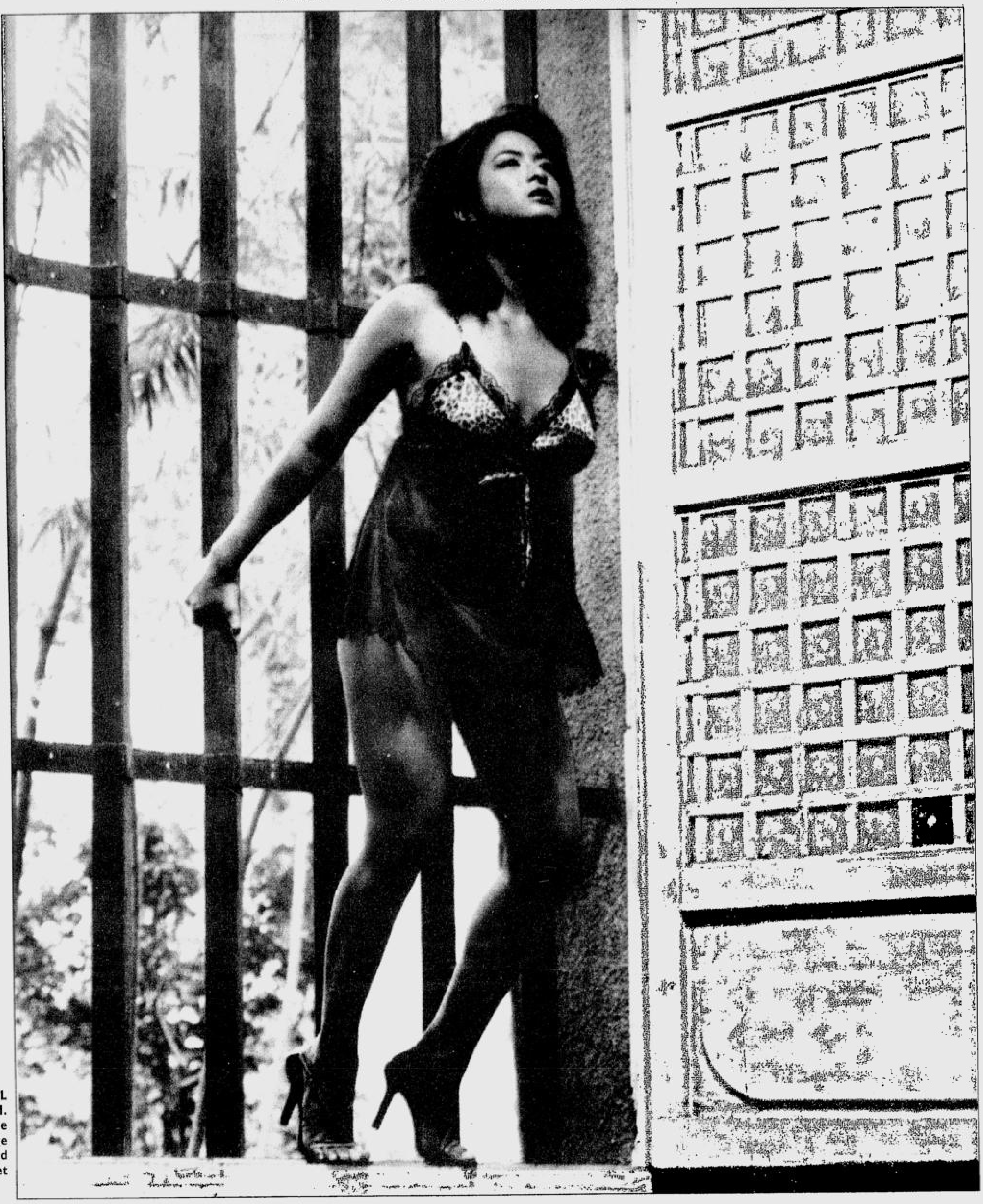

ANIMAL MAGNETISM. Hanging on the window ledge in a leopard two-piece set

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Private Joyce *in Fantasia*

From page D5

minium unit. She also plays the stock market in the US. She even started her IRA.

"I can't have the mentality that I'll be around forever. Being 23, I realize that I'm not immortal. I want to make sure that—God forbid—if something happens to me, there's something for my family," she says.

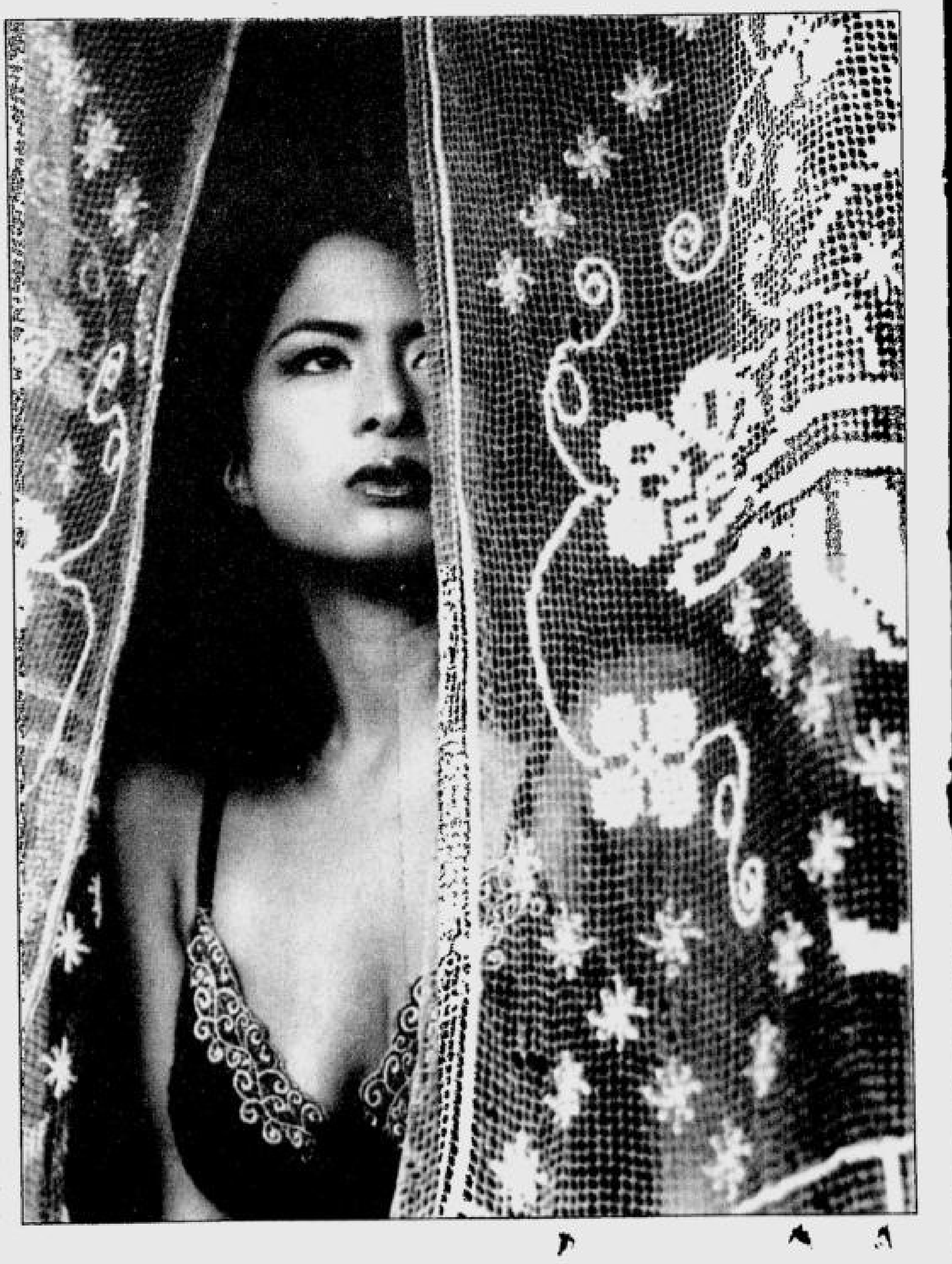
Center

Joyce points out that her family has been the center of her life. Any discussions about it can sometimes bring tears to her eyes.

"They made me the person I am today. I am where I am because of them. They sculpted me to be the best person I could

PRIVATE/ p.D7

JOYCE DE VARENNE. Joyce opens the gate of triumph in this stretch lace bodysuit.



OLD AND NEW. Joyce's scalloped-trimmed embroidered bra complements the Belgian lace curtains made in 1930s.

Private Joyce in Fantasia

'The mystery is within me . . . nobody will ever figure out who I am'

BLACK bra and underwear with fringed stockings

BRONZE GODDESS
For a natural look, Lancôme's makeup artist Mariz de los Reyes used bronze powder on top of the Touche Liberte foundation. Blanc Neige is a must to give the face a warm look. The cheeks were also shaded in bronze. The lips were lined with brown lip liner and topped with a golden brown lip gloss.

From page D6

be—even if I have flaws. They're not asking for perfection."

No wonder Joyce will keep on working even if her beauty fades with time. Peers commend Joyce for her professionalism and punctuality—attitudes instilled by her parents. "That was the way I was brought up. My parents taught me to respect people and to value time. It's something you can't get back. I also don't like to make people wait. My family taught me to admit my mistakes, to cooperate with others and respect their ideas. If some people don't think the way I do, I don't throw a tantrum."

Whether it's a pictorial or a shooting, she arrives on the set even before the director and gets upset if she's late by five minutes. Joyce doesn't mind waiting for long hours as she gets paid for the day anyway.

For all the adulation about her looks, Joyce has remained unaffected and again, credits her parents for her genes.

"When people compliment me about the way I look, I say I'm a combination of my mother and father. It's more of a compliment to them than to me. I'm honored to say 'thank you' because in return, that's saying my father is handsome and my mother is beautiful," she says later over lunch of salad and chicken à la kiev in Tagaytay.

"Sometimes it blows me away when I'm in another country and people recognize me. In the Philippines where people know me, I feel I'm just starting out." (It blew this writer away that the bombshell prays before her meals.)

When friends prod her, "Don't you realize you're Joyce Jimenez?" her answer is nonchalant. "And? I'm just another name, so what's the big deal?"

It was also instilled in her that nothing comes on a silver platter. She had to earn it whether it was her whistlebait figure or her financial success. In this town where crab mentality is a lifestyle, Joyce will always be criticized for anything—from her audacity to expose her private parts to her not being skinny enough.

When she first joined show biz, Joyce weighed nearly 120 pounds. Society chastised her for wearing bikinis or doing frontal nudity despite the excess poundage. Joyce says that if she were obsessed with thinness, she would have been gaunt a long time ago. She took up boxing and other aerobic activities to keep fit rather than to look like Kate Moss.

Oblivious

Even if she's an Extra Small, Joyce is still considered far from the unrealistic pin-thin ideal. Yet, Joyce seems oblivious to society's impossible demands.

"I've always been content with what I am and with what I have. I know that if I get anything more, it's because I worked for it. What I have now is meant to be for the moment. If I want to have more, I have to work for it." That, in a nutshell, is the philosophy of karma.

Instinctively she knows that a movie career is ephemeral. She is in show biz to make an honest living and to support, among others, her brother who is finishing his studies in culinary school.

"When show business is getting to me and I want to quit, I just remember that I am helping my brother and giving a better future for him and his family," she says.

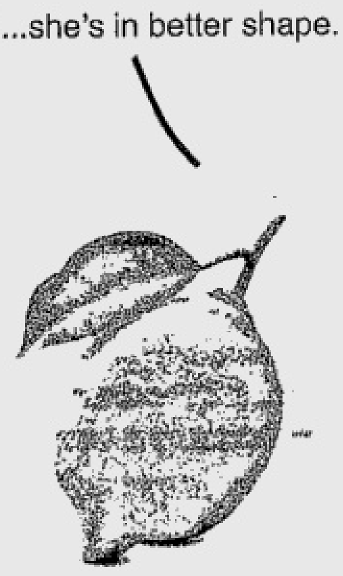
Joyce reveals that her compassion for others is her greatest strength. "I think of others before I think of myself."

At this point it is Joyce Reintagrado, not Joyce Jimenez, who is speaking from her heart and mind. She likes to play the game of revealing and concealing which is what "Private Joyce" is all about.

"I still maintain my mystery," she says.

Where does it lie?

"In my heart. Within me. I don't think anybody will figure out the real me. I will always throw people off guard."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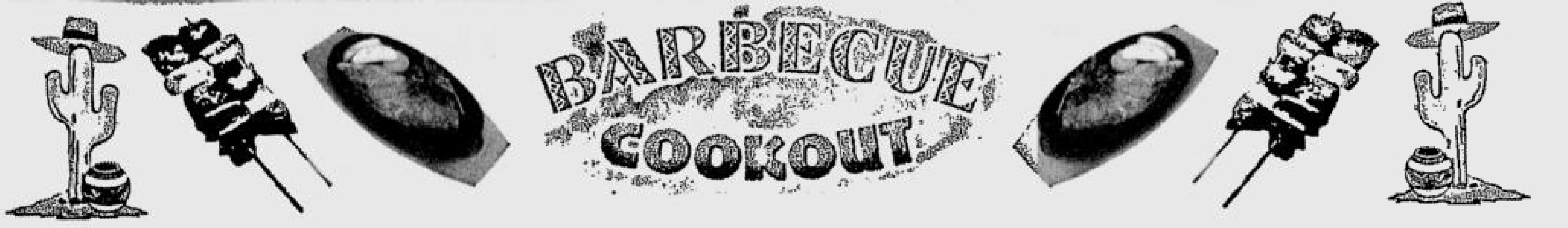

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Trend Spotting
& Home

AFRICAN lovebird wins award.

Bird talk fills orchid exhibit

By Tita V. Giron
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

NOT the usual garden show is what people are seeing at the Philippine Orchid Society (POS) exhibit at Quezon Memorial Circle, which will end on Sunday. For the first time in 56 years since POS held its first show, exotic flowering orchids are sharing the limelight with pet birds.

Lovebirds of different kinds and colors are featured at various segments of this garden event—in competition, pet care lectures and sale.

A growing trend obviously, ornamental pet birds were also featured among plants and flowers at the earlier Philippine Horticulture Society garden show. The ornamental birds flown from Malagos Bird Park in Davao City, for instance, are crowd-drawers and reportedly among top sellers at the market section.

> African lovebirds almost steal the thunder from the main stars in annual POS exhibit

Nonetheless, orchids obviously continue to delight as shown by the daily attendance at the POS exhibit and lectures by expert growers. This year's show also proves that local orchid breeders are becoming more sophisticated in choices and growing techniques. Take for example the attractive Epidendrum hybrids, an old species. Giving earlier growers a major headache, the orchids at the show are in vibrant health, abloom with bigger and brighter flowers in yellow, orange and red.

Improved versions of old favorites won top honors in the competition. That was a wel-

BIRD/ p.E2

VANDA lamellata calayan

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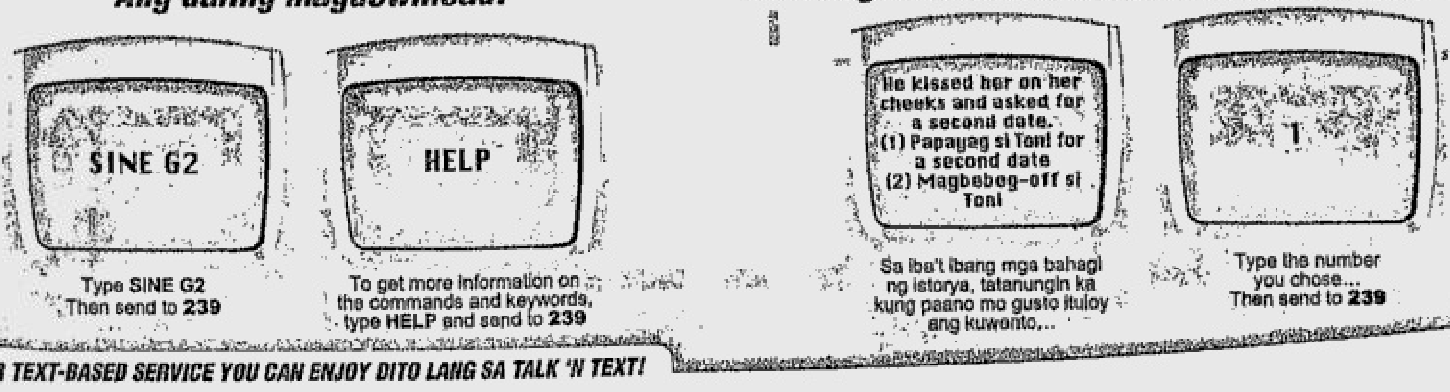
SINE G2
HELP
He kissed her on her cheeks and asked for a second date.
(1) Papayag si Toni for a second date
(2) Magbebeg-off si Toni
1

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Type SINE G2
Then send to 239
To get more information on the commands and keywords, type HELP and send to 239
Ikaw ang masusunod kung anong gusto mong ending!
Sa iba't ibang mga bahagi ng istorya, tatanungin ka kung paano mo gusto ituloy ang kuwento,...
Type the number you chose...
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ORCHIDS Epidendrum hybrid

Bird talk fills orchid exhibit

From page E1

come sign, reassuring orchid lovers old favorites would not disappear for good with the steady importation of new hybrids. Old-timers were pleased to see old standards Oncidium Gower Ramsey and Cattleya BLC Ports of Paradise. Also in the show are native species Vanda lamellata from Calayan Island, Vanda remediosii and boxallii, Dendrobium sanggumay and Phalaenopsis equestris of the north.

Blue ribbon winners

Consistent winners in previous orchid competitions won trophies and blue ribbons again at the POS show, proving they're still the best in orchid culture and care. Orchid book author and grower Andres Golamco Jr. won first prize for his Epc. Mae Bly mariae x Lc. Anne Follis, Paphiopedilum concolor and Phaius tankervillae.

NEW orchids on the block

Cora Purification easily swept top awards again for her Oncidium Gower Ramsey and Phalaenopsis Tohashi white. Both orchids were bred and raised by her late son Eric. Other winners were Mable Chua for the Dendrobium Palolo Sunshine, Vangie Go for her Vanda Manizaki, and Vic Chin Jr. for his Vanda lamellata "calayan."

The best orchid garden landscape was awarded to the group of C V Lazaro, V. Chin Jr., M. Chua, Dr. Olivia Sanchez, Linda Lim, V. Go and Philbert Mombaoa.

Flying high

The Avian Society of the Philippines proves at the orchid show that gardens should have birds all the time. "Birds create a happy ambience in any garden because of their colors and sound," said Chin, overall chair of this year's show.

Over 130 multicolored feathered pets and their proud owners took over the show for one day of the POS exhibit, upstaging the blooming orchids in their very own show.

Occasion was the African lovebird competition of the Avian Society of the Philippines. Those who watched the competition said they were lucky to see the exciting birds up-close, many of which were making a public appearance for the first time.

The bird people themselves are fascinating. Speaking a language all their own, baffling garden lovers with their bird talk. Budgerigars, we understand, refer to the common house lovebirds people are more familiar with. But words like roseicollis and agapornis are mystifying. We learned the terms referred to lovebirds with and without rings around their eyes.

We preferred the birds' popular names like peach face, white face, green pied, orange face pied, white face pied, etc.

"They're African lovebirds with varying colors, a result of mutation," explained Avian society president Danny Ang, a veterinary doctor by profession. He added that the exotic birds had adapted very well to Philippine conditions, a big advantage. "What's more, they are good pet birds because they can be tamed."

"With so many new colors coming out of breeding in Philippine collections, African lovebirds have very good potentials for [providing] an alternative source of livelihood for the orchard hobbyists," Ang said. The current price of ordinary lovebirds starts at P500 a pair, but African lovebirds fetch higher rates—from P1,200 a pair to P10,000. It could be more for a single bird with unusual mutation.

Chin and other orchid hobbyists said they were discovering the potentials of African lovebirds. His birds, raised in his garden nursery in Calamba, are exhibited at the orchid show.

Francis Sarmiento, a POS member, disclosed that he started with a few pairs last year. Now he has 12 breeding pairs. "I will be ready to sell off new birds within the year," he boasted.

Lectures and demonstration

Lectures are still being held every afternoon until the show's end on Sunday. The schedule includes: basics of orchid growing by Carlos Valeriano Lazaro today; care and selection of koi fish by Michael Rodante Hernandez tomorrow, and orchid corsage making by Wilhelm Ortaliz on Sunday.

For more information on orchids and pets, call Vic Chin at 698-8655 or 0919-8657803; about African lovebirds for hobby and livelihood, call Dr. Danny Ang at 0917-3981000; and amateur's way of breeding lovebirds, call Dr. Francis Sarmiento at 0916-8226101.

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Japan beats the heat with rooftop gardens

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

ROOF gardens are an old idea. They have been around since biblical times. Remember Nebuchadnezzar, king of Chaldea, who built terraces on the roofs of his palace? They became known as the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the wonders of the ancient world.

While that old garden sought merely to impress on others the vast riches and power of the Chaldean court, the roof gardens of today have a greater purpose, and may even contribute to man's survival on this planet. For in many cities in the world, temperatures are rising, causing people to suffer much discomfort and illness. Rooftop gardens are being offered as a solution to some of these problems.

Environmentalists have looked into this matter of rising temperatures with grave concern for years, even including it as a point of discussion during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Some countries, Japan in particular, have felt the need to do something about it in their shores and so began to undertake trial programs for rooftop greening.

The "trial runs" in Japan, which went on for seven years, focused on the rooftops of parking structures and facilities and covered 0.6 hectares. This year, the implementing agency, Japan's Urban Development Corp. (UDC), is including roofs of residential buildings as well and expects to plant greenery on approximately 2.3 hectares of roof gardens.

Urban heat islands

An offshoot of rising urban temperatures is what scientists refer to as "urban heat islands," which contribute to the build-up of pollutants in city air. It is a phenomenon more common in cities than in suburbs and rural areas because the heat is released by human activities, like fuel combustion, that are more common in densely populated centers.

In an article in Look Japan magazine, Nawa Yosuko, executive director of UDC, reports that Japan has launched a full-scale rooftop greening project because, among other things, it experiences extremely hot summers.

Rooftop greening, according to Yosuko, has long been recognized for a variety of reasons: for its effectiveness in providing insulation and improving the energy efficiency of buildings, for restoring nature in an urban setting, for creating an attractive landscape and for extending the service life of buildings.

But rooftop gardening is particularly favored today for its ability to lessen the heat island phenomenon and improve the urban environment, which are generally social issues.

The project, which is being carried out in Tokyo, Kinki, Chubo and Fukuoka, all metropolitan areas, will be done on high-rise buildings (except skyscrapers) which are slated to be constructed this fiscal year. The Tokyo city government also passed an ordinance last April requiring rooftop greenery, and the Diet, Japan's parliament, has strengthened the country's Urban Green Space Conservation Act.

The UDC began experimenting with rooftop greenery in 1993 (a year after the Earth Summit) in its own headquarters, and later its other agencies. It has developed a practical method for doing the job that is inexpensive, does not put a heavy load on the buildings, and does not require constant watering where of the gardens. In fact, says Yosuko, gardens need not be watered even during long periods of sunshine. The UDC also tried over a hundred varieties of plants to determine the most suitable for the greening project. It has thus been able to cultivate plants under different rooftop conditions.

Planting on rooftops

The planting method, explains Yosuko, requires a substrate of soil 15-cm deep, placed above the 5-cm-deep drainage layer. Perlite is mixed with natural dirt to enhance the substrate's ability to hold water. Ground cover species preferred are Korean velvet grass and lily turf because these make irrigation unnecessary. The rooftop gardens can be maintained simply by cutting the grass and weeding twice a year.

Already, positive effects of rooftop gardening are becoming evident, such as the water vapor from plants has started to cool the surrounding air. While the project started with newly constructed buildings, Yosuko foresees that soon, it will be possible to start gardens in older buildings as well.

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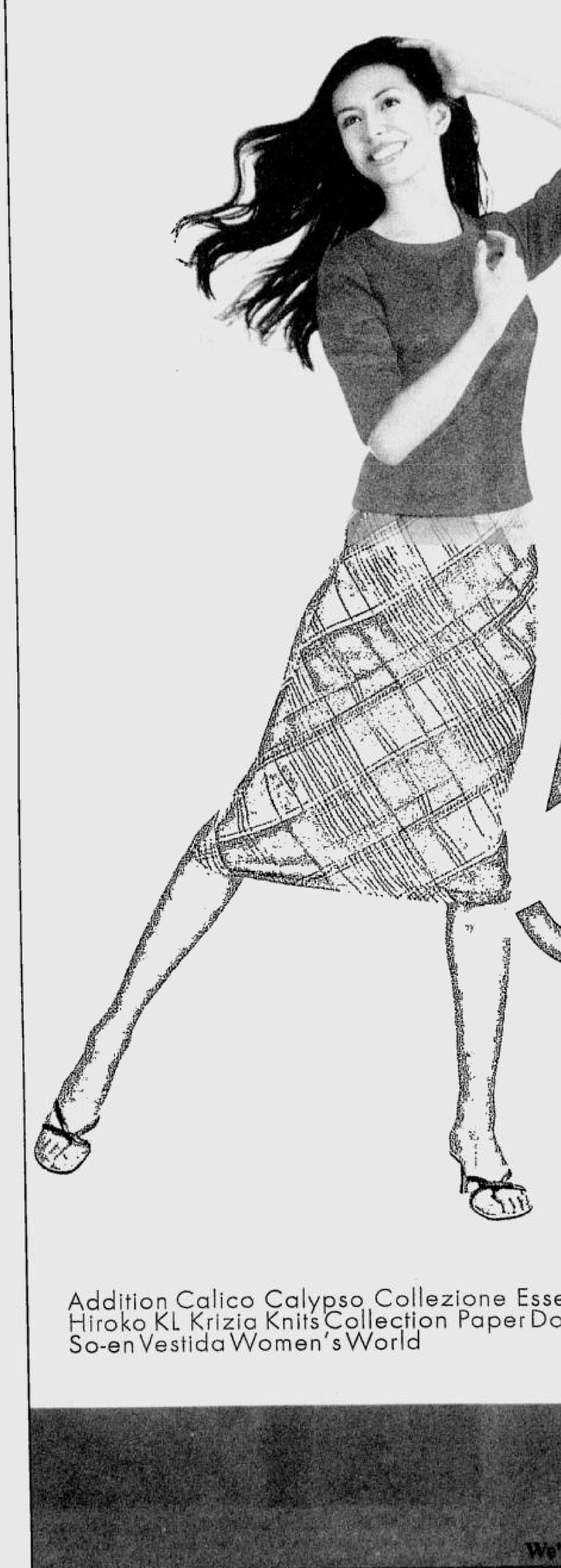

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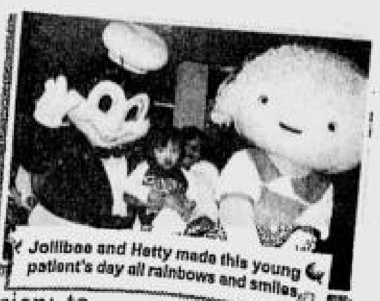
Jollibee Journal

Jollibee spreads happiness to Benguet



Jollibee and Hetty made this young patient's day all rainbows and smiles.

The sun shone brightly on Benguet General Hospital last February 3 to 9, as a team of Canadian doctors and embassy officials arrived for a special mission: to bring happiness and smiles to Ifugao children with cleft palates, hare lip and facial scars.

Dubbed as Operation Rainbow, the medical outreach was organized by the Baguio-Benguet Ladies Outreach Brigade who tapped the local Jollibee store to help serve and entertain the young patients, their parents, and even the Canadian doctors themselves.

Aside from the *Langhap-Sarap* meals served from the heart, Jollibee and Hetty delighted the kids and their families with dance numbers and games. Truly, everyone felt the goodwill and generosity. Even the Canadians were so touched by the warmth and hospitality extended to them by the people of Benguet, that they took the Jollibee *Welcome* streamer back home to Canada.

Kiddie Art Workshop for Superkids Club Members in Tacloban

Superkids Club Members busy as bees, painting their clay masterpieces.

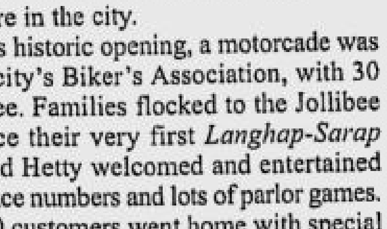
Hundreds of kids in Leyte painted the town in bright and happy colors when Jollibee Tacloban recently hosted a pot painting workshop for their Superkids Club Members.

Jollibee has always been a favorite of kids, not to mention kids-at-heart. In return for their loyal patronage, Jollibee created the Superkids Club, offering fun and educational activities for kids. Jollibee hopes these activities will help motivate and inspire kids to be more active, creative and develop self-esteem.

Jollibee Tacloban's 1st kiddie workshop for the year was held at the UP College and attracted a lot of young and talented kids.

All participants received their Certificates of Attendance. Moreover, three special awards were given out to club members for their eye-catching works, they are : Danica Bague (1st prize), Cresanta Marie Ramos (2nd prize), and Austin Marc Ganaban (3rd prize). Congratulations and see you at the next Superkids Club Workshop!

Jollibee conquers Pagadian



All roads led to the new Jollibee Pagadian store, the biggest and the most modern fast food store in Pagadian City.

There's just no stopping Jollibee in bringing good food and spreading happiness and cheer to Filipinos all over the country.

Last January 20, 2002, the southern city of Pagadian was abuzz with excitement for the grand opening of the 1st Jollibee store in the province of Zamboanga del Norte.

The new Jollibee Pagadian boasts of being the biggest (with a seating capacity of 230 people) and the most modern, with a 60-footer signage-- the tallest man-made structure in the city.

To celebrate this historic opening, a motorcade was organized by the city's Biker's Association, with 30 riders from Jollibee. Families flocked to the Jollibee store to experience their very first *Langhap-Sarap* meals. Jollibee and Hetty welcomed and entertained the crowd with dance numbers and lots of parlor games. The store's first 50 customers went home with special gifts from Jollibee. So when traveling down south, drop by the new Jollibee store in Pagadian.

Jollibee helps fight drug abuse in Pangasinan

Students and PADAC officials unite to combat the drug menace in Pangasinan.

Jollibee flexes its muscles to help combat the drug menace plaguing society.

Recently, the RLL Group of Jollibee Stores in Pangasinan sponsored an Anti-drug abuse quiz show participated in by public and private high schools. The quiz show is just one of the many anti-drug projects by the Pangasinan Anti-Drug Abuse Coordinating Council (PADAC), an agency created by Pangasinan Governor Victor Agbayani and headed by Vice-Governor Oscar Lambino.

Jollibee will continue to play an active role and help promote PADAC's programs to curb rising rate of drug abuse in Pangasinan in the days to come. So kids, be good, bee happy!

For feedback, comments, or suggestions, please write to:
Jollibee Journal
c/o The Marketing Division,
Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines
journal@jollibee.com.ph

bee happy

Michelle Aldana
keeps up with time's beat

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Wahoo Guerrero

HOW THE WEST AS WORN. The long-sleeved polo with white piping in stretch cotton by Polo Jeans is teamed with an indigo denim mini skirt by DKNY. Contrast the dark colors with a red low slung wide leather belt with rhinestone buckle by A/X.

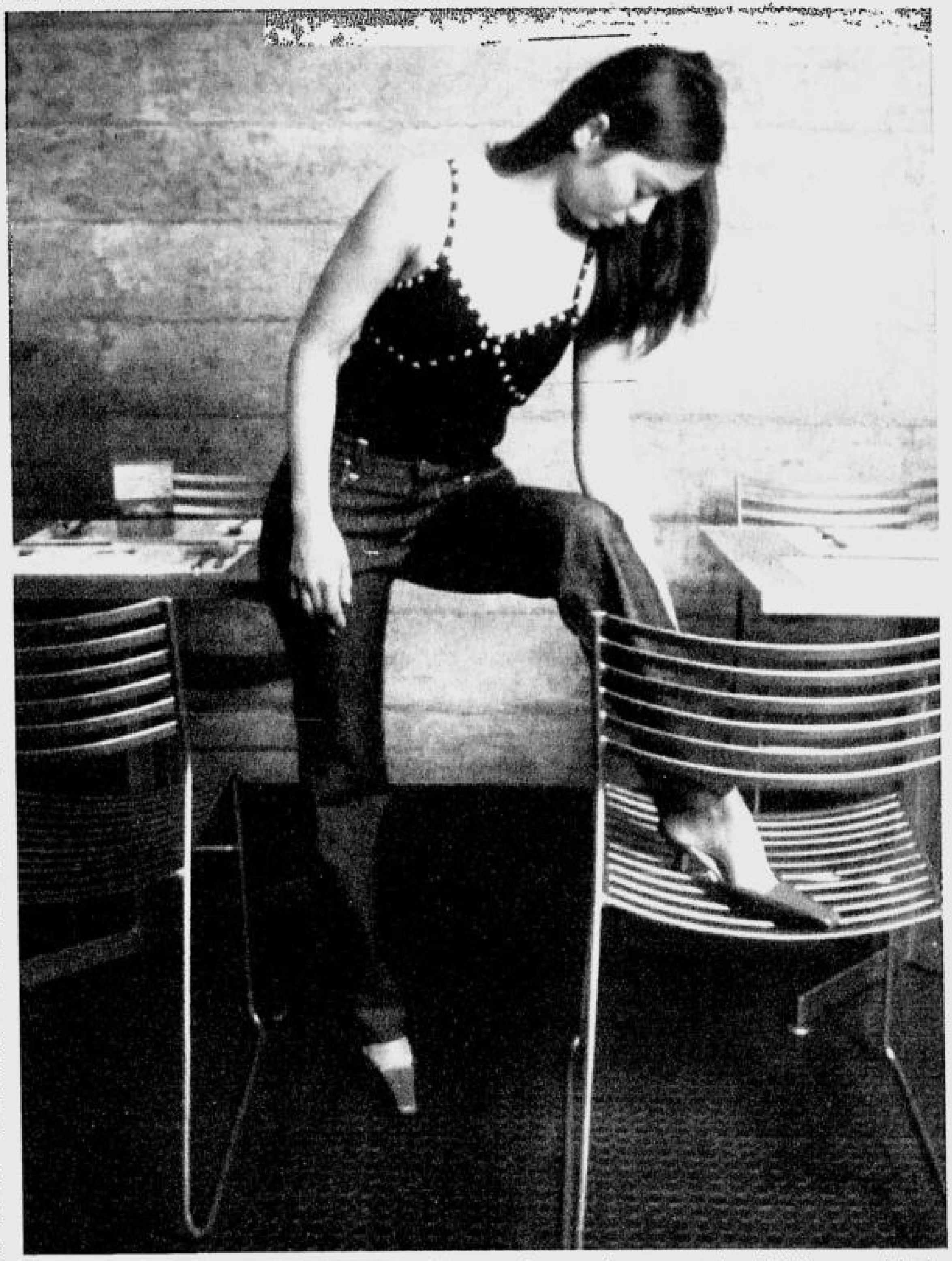
FORMER actress-beauty queen Michelle Aldana arrived at Garibaldi restaurant much earlier than this writer for her interview and pictorial. Call it German precision. After being married to a German executive and working in Munich, Bavaria, she has acquired the discipline of a Westerner.

This was a far cry from her movie star days when she habitually arrived late and received preferential treatment.

"Germans are concerned about punctuality. I've been late for teaching my class. When that happens, it is dismissed and you don't get paid. You lose money. Time is money. If you want to earn well then you work for it. You have to be worthy of it. Here we have this star complex. If you want me, okay, then you wait for me. Now it's changing. I've seen a lot of professionalism here."

Michelle recalled that 1993 was her peak year. After winning Mutya ng Pilipinas, she bagged the Miss Asia-Pacific title. It led her to a movie career, which lasted for five years.

Then a theater arts major at UP, she found her course useful. "Hell, yeah, to test your tenacity," she said. "Theater people are strict. Tony Mabesa would throw you out of the window if he disliked you."



COLOR OF SEDUCTION. Black top with rhinestone in stretch georgette by DKNY goes with the black hipster pickstitch boot-cut jeans by Polo Jeans. Break the monotone with brown lizard with brown kid combination mules, low Sabrina heels by Lila Almario

Blunders

She recalled doing a scene from "Anastasia" without studying the role. She appeared in a spaghetti-strapped gown even if the play was set in cold Russia. "Give me a break. I was 19. I didn't do my assignment," she said.

"I've made a lot of blunders in show biz. If I could turn back the time I'd do a lot of things better. I was like a desert island. I came from theater. I was looking down at people from show biz. I was naïve. I wholeheartedly trusted people that I shouldn't [have]. They were there during the heydays, but [were] gone [when the going got tough]."

By 1998, movie offers became less frequent. There was a dearth of substantial scripts and most of the offers were for bold movies. The university had also given her an ultimatum that she had to finish her residency.

She shifted from theater arts to European languages, majoring in French literature. "That's where I found my niche," she said.

Michelle is at a crossroad in her life. When she came home for the holidays, she met with old friends and with the press and talked about life in Munich, Germany, where she is based.

She is married to Christoph Heinermann, regional director in Europe for Air Span, a company that specializes in wireless communications. During his four-year stay in Manila, he met her through a common friend. When they were dating she was finishing her studies in European languages at UP.

Michelle was engaged to Heinermann for a year. He said he was leaving for Germany because his contract was expiring.

Michelle had the option to stay and be away from him or follow him. She chose to be with him. They were married in civil rites. Two years later, a church wedding was held.

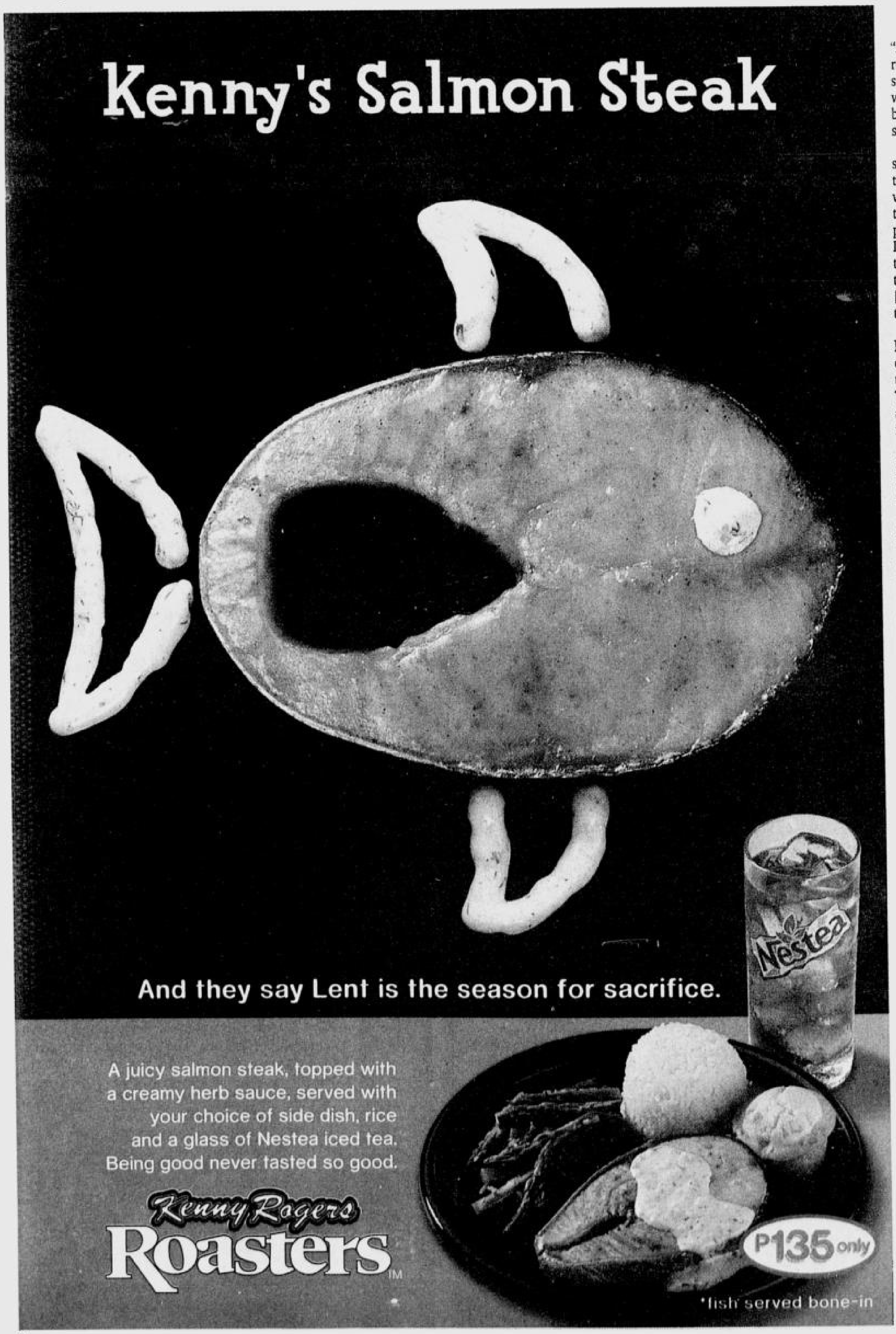
Finding her niche

"To be honest, my career was not going anywhere then. I was multi-tasking, I had to finish my schooling. I couldn't find my niche. There were so many newcomers. I didn't have the space. Then all the offers I got were only for bold movies—either that or *wala talaga*. So I decided to finish my studies."

She added: "I told my manager, Norma Japitana, I had to lie low and finish school and move to Europe. I was happy with my decision. That's the niche I was looking for. Here in the Philippines

MICHELLE/ p.E5

COWGIRL. Michelle wears a powder blue V-neck knit shirt with rhinestone studs, an indigo mini denim skirt with waist piping and a gray woven fisherman's hat, all from A/X. They go with the Mad Cow slides, cream calf leather with tan nubuck appliqués and bag in fabric printed with cow spots by Lila Almario.



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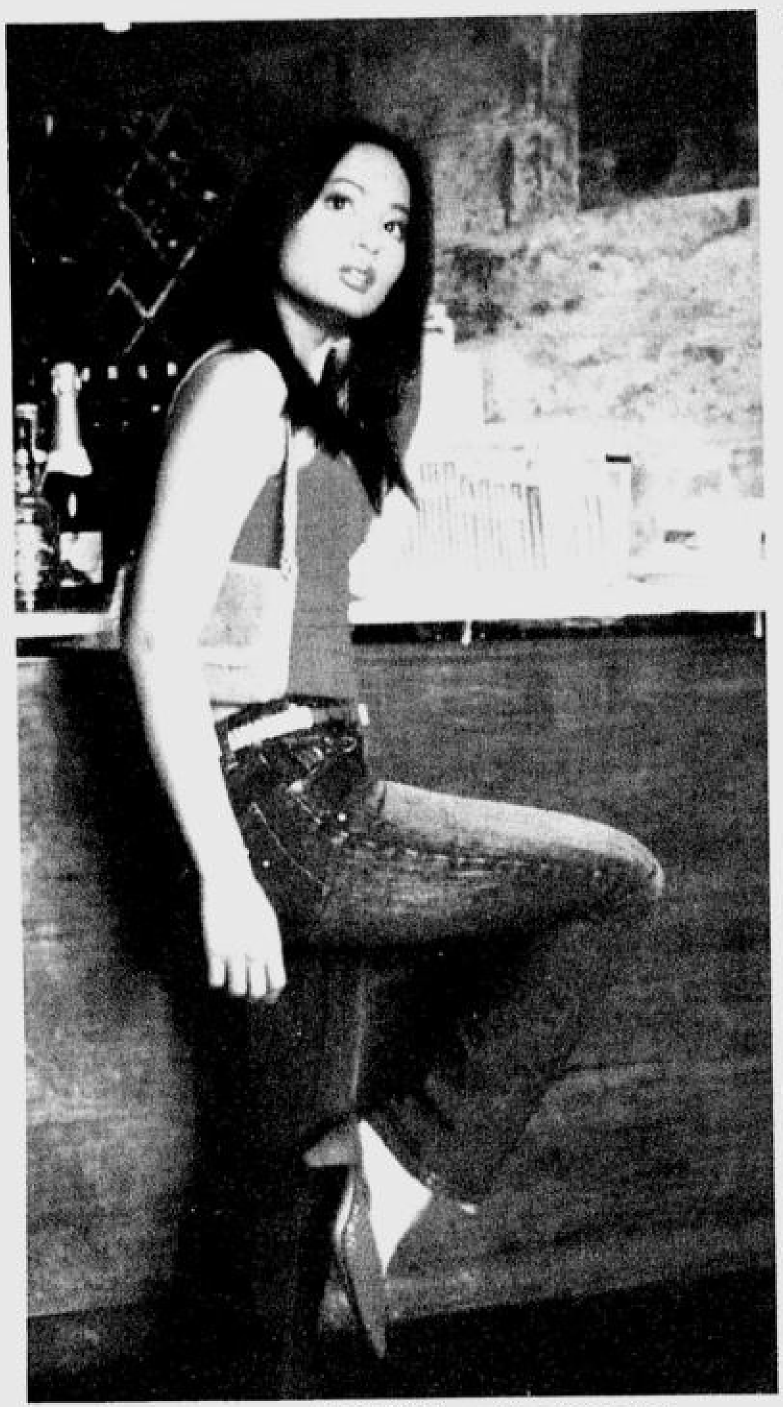
Michelle Aldana keeps up with time's beat



HAIR AND MAKEUP BY CESAR SITCHON FOR KAFFEE SALON, HOTEL INTER-CONTINENTAL
MAKEUP: CHANEL POLYCHROMES
STYLING: RINA GO
LOCATION: GARIBALDI RESTAURANT, METROPOLITAN AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
SPECIAL THANKS: MANLIO GAMBINI

LOOKING sexy in a tango red spaghetti-strapped knit top with rhinestone studs, indigo hipster pants with studs in washed denim and a brown leather belt with metal detail, all by A/X. Michelle totes a corduroy mini bag with fringes by Polo Jeans. Burgundy snakeskin mules with cone stacked heels by Lila Almario

From page E4

people stop you in the street. You don't know if they are sincere because you are a star. In Europe, if you get a modicum of decency from people, you feel great. You are accepted.

"Germans love beautiful people and things. When I was single and went out a lot, I felt it. There was this famous but exclusive disco in Munich. Our dates brought me with a girl friend; they let us in graciously. They told me I got accepted. *Papasa ako sa* standard. That was a feather in my cap."

She tried to acclimatize herself to Germany.

"When I went there, I had to study German. My routine then was to get out of bed, brush my teeth, skip breakfast, take the train and stay in school the whole day. When I got home, I rested and then did homework for German class. We would order our evening meals. At the time I didn't know how to cook. After learning the language I found a job."

Teacher

Michelle worked at a prestigious language school, teaching English and French. She also handled a kindergarten class.

Like any relationship, couples must learn to adjust to each other. She described her husband as straightforward. "He tells it like it is. You don't have to fish for anything. If he doesn't like it, he tells you frankly. It can hurt because you don't want to be criticized," she said.

"He is very patient. He has managed to go through the tidal waves of my emotions."

Her priority is taking care of her year-old son who was born prematurely. "My whole life revolves around him at present. He has special needs like visiting the pediatrician once a week because of his weak lungs and physical therapy."

Although she enjoys motherhood, Michelle misses the mental stimulation she gets when she's working.

"When I had the baby I told my husband [I would like to] quit work and experience full motherhood," she said. "But I want to work. It's not easy to stay at home all the time. I told my husband that I have no satisfaction. *Parang nabobobo ako.* Although I read, it's passive. I don't get to discuss things with people. I miss those things. I'm wrapped up in a small cocoon."

Heinermann understands her position and consoles her with the fact that raising an infant is only temporary.

"It won't be long. It's a phase in my life. After that, I'll have to move on." she said.

At the Ladies' Shoes Department

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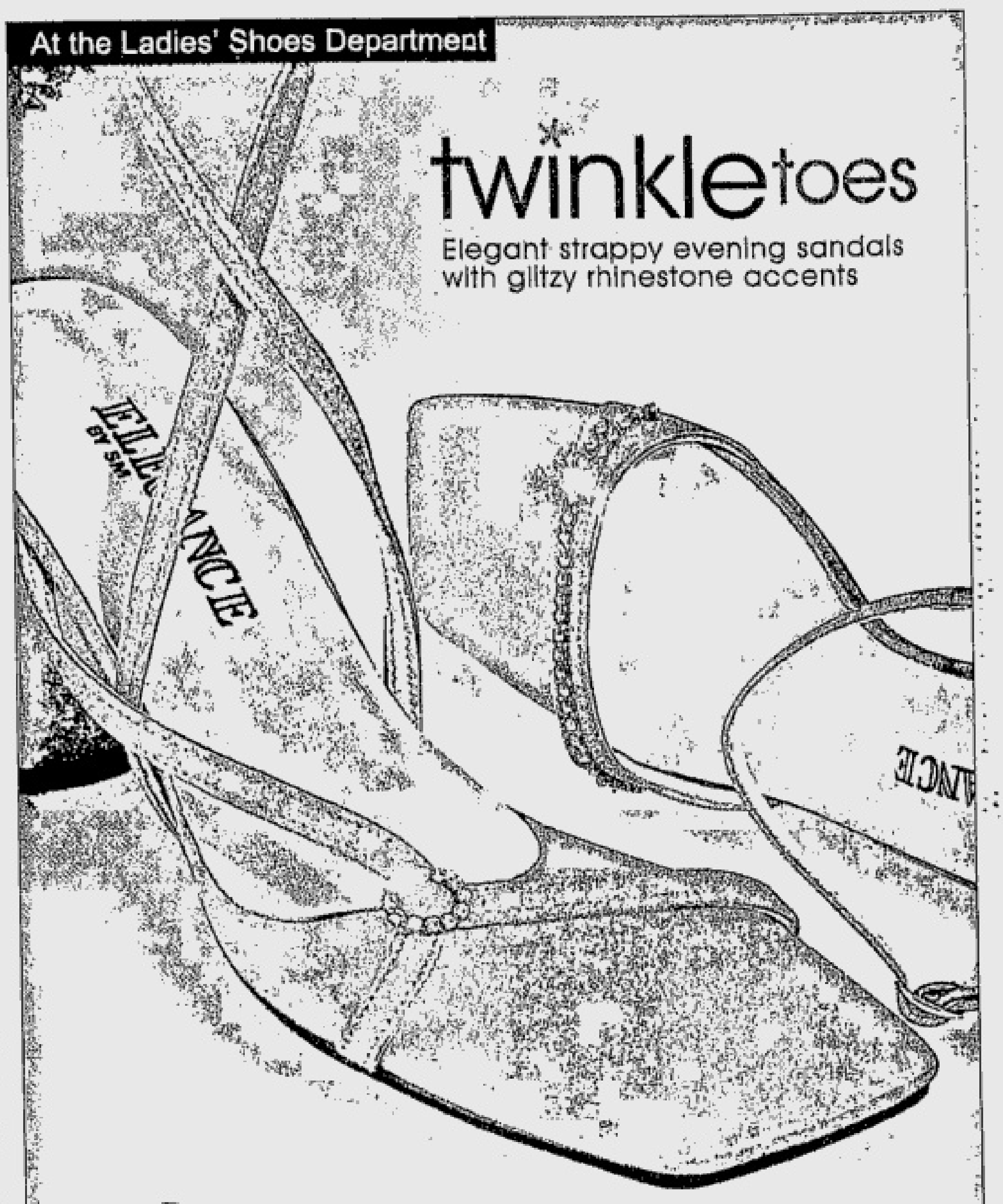
Elegant strappy evening sandals with glitzy rhinestone accents



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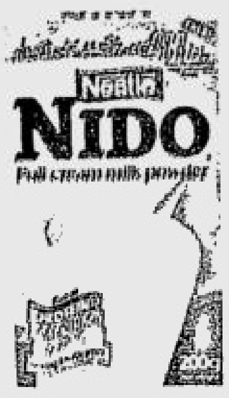
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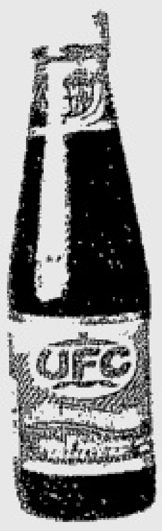
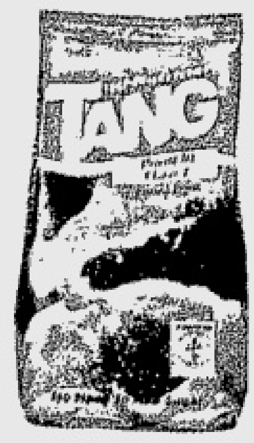

UFC Banana Catsup 320ml
₱9.25
Reg. Price 9.75


Tang Pomelo 500g (refill)
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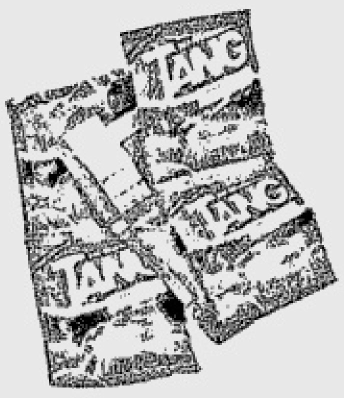
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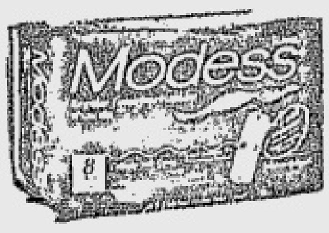
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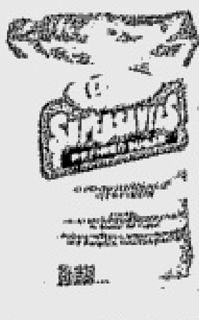
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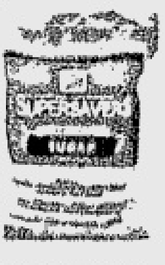
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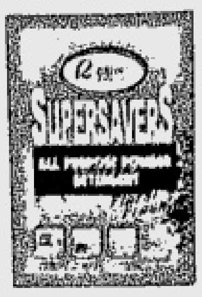
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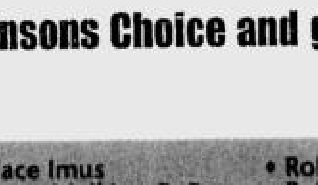
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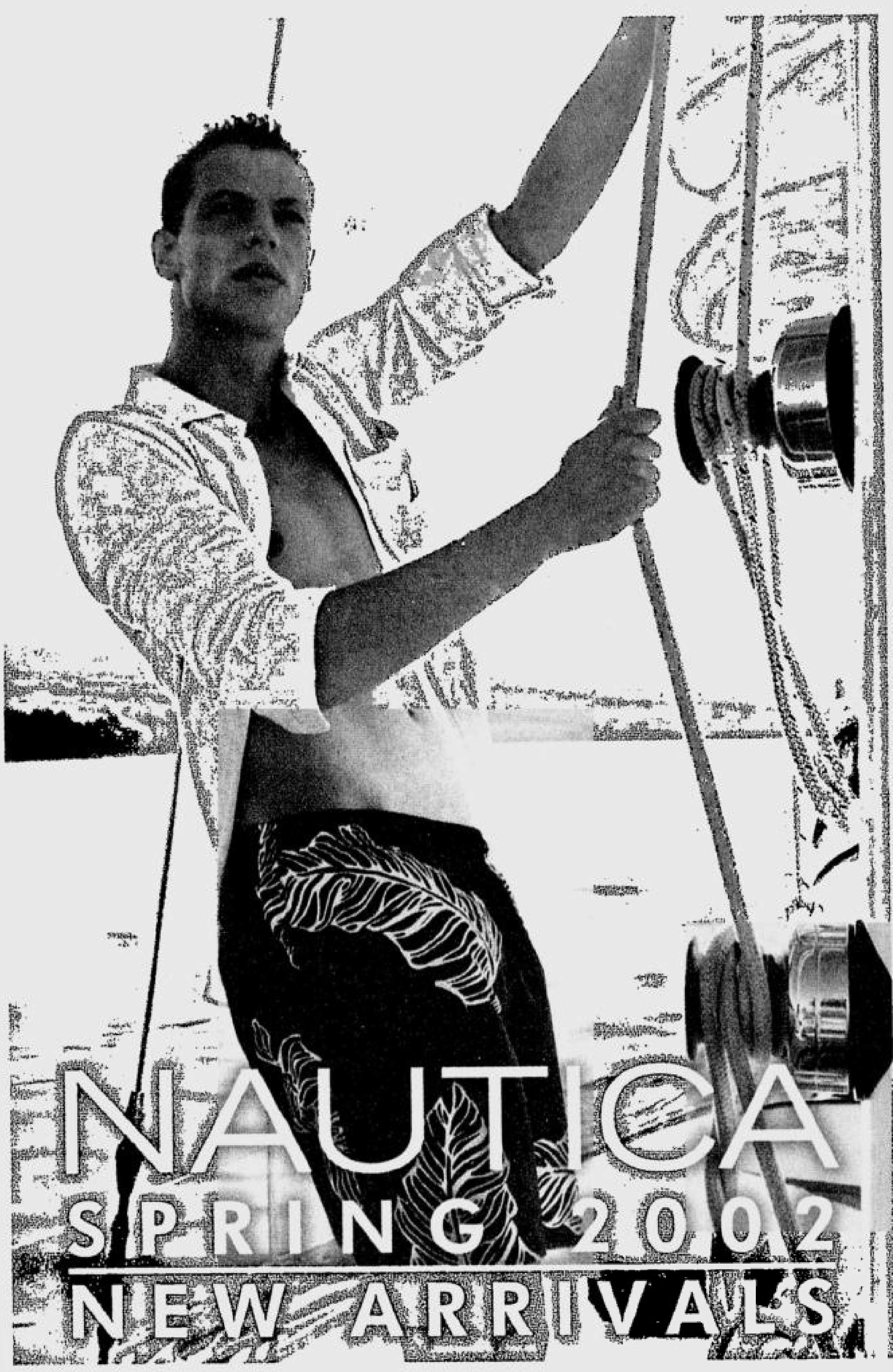
Per DTI-NCR No.0369 Series of 2002



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March 4, Monday, 9-12nn BROWNIES GALORE Chocolate Cheesecake Brownies, Cappuccino Brownies, Kahlua Brownies, Chocolate Fudge Brownies, White Chocolate Pecan Brownies P 1,000

March 4, Monday, 1-5pm BAKING 3 Toblerone Cake, Cream Puff, Eclairs, Profiteroles, Chocolate Mousse, Creamy Croissant and Apple Pudding, Empanadas con Camote y Pina P 1,000

March 5,Tuesday, 9-12nn MY FAVOURITE CHICKEN RECIPES 1 Roast Chicken with Gravy and Herb Potatoes, Chicken Curry with Condiments, Coq Au Vin, Chicken a la Kiev, Chicken Croquettes P 1,000

March 6, Wednesday, 9-12nn PIES and CHEESECAKES Apple Pie with Streusel, Blueberry Cheesecake, No Bake Cheesecake, Oreo Cheesecake, Quiche Lorraine P 1,200

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March 9, Saturday or March 22, Friday, 9am-1pm BAKING 2 with Frostings & Icings Rich & Moist Devil's Food Cake with Mocha Buttercream Frosting, Apple Walnut Cake with Creamy Caramel Frosting, Chocolate Decadent Cake with Chocolate Fudge Icing & Caramel, Maple Walnut Cake with Fluffy White Frosting P 1,200

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March 12, Tuesday, 2-5pm BAKING 6 For Chocolate Lovers! French Chocolate Cake, Black Forest Cake, Churros with Hot Chocolate, Russian Chocolate Cake P 1,000

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March 13, Wednesday, 2-5:30pm BAKING 7 Croquembouche, Turtle Pie, Triple Chocolate Mousse Cake, Mango Pavlova P 1,200

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March 20, Wednesday, 2:30-5:30pm Special ITALIAN PIAZZA with Chef Mauro Arjona Cold Smoked Salmon Pizza, Pork Saltimbucca, Fettuccini with Prawns and Blue Cheese, Ossobucco, Tiramisu P 1,500

March 23, Saturday, 9-12nn THAI COOKING 3 Pandan Chicken, Thai Chicken Curry, Beef Curry, Khanom Chine, Papaya Salad, Green Mango Salad, Pineapple Rice, Poh Piah (Thai Springrolls) P 1,200

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Trend Spotting

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LIFESTYLE

Harassing the Hunks

With Jericho to my left and Diether to my right—hand-in-hand captivity—and with Piolo, Bernard and Carlos following—this frantic editor so unfashionably ambled her way back to the *pakipot* guests

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

THE PAST two months I've been dealing with beautiful bodies and hunks, enough to cause the envy of friends, gay and straight. But somebody's got to do the job, as they say; in my case, the job of a market-driven magazine editor.

With photographers **Jun de Leon**, **Jim Paredes**, **Tom Epperson**, **Ronnie Salvacion**, **Jovel Lorenzo**, **Raymond Lontok**, **Claudine Sia** and **Neil Lucente**, we did our annual Body Calendar; and with director **Ariel Lozada** and fashion stylist **Michael Salientes**, we mounted a Body Calendar show where models donned skimpy wear, undergarments or lingerie.

But it's not the "what" that I'll tackle here, but the "why" and the "who" (the Hunks, in this case). Like, is our era seeing a renewed obsession with bodies, what brought on this market, what exactly is the market—and okay, what are the Hunks like?

Does skin sell? I've been asked that a million times in interviews (so please, don't ask me again). Does the sun rise in the east? Skin-selling is nothing new. The potential of sexy bodies to grab the eye and hog-tie the imagination is a classic marketing tool the boundaries of which have been tested by milestone projects such as the Calvin Klein ads. Calvin Klein's controversial use of bodies to pitch a brand a decade or so ago was pushing the envelope, so to speak. After that, there was no turning back.

In the local experience, what I like to think we're seeing is the continued emergence not so much of the number of bodies, as the batch of photographers able and daring to interpret those bodies. What excites me as editor is the quality of photography I see in those transparencies (honestly, not **Jericho**'s butt)—the mood, the innovation, the lighting, the power of suggestion a photographer can summon, the freshness of the image. As Jim said, the challenge "is to show the woman in the most beautiful way possible, yet not to show what she doesn't like to show." Jun de Leon describes the sensibility needed to do a body shot: "*Bading ang isip ko dapat.*"

For our first Body Calendar, I have to give credit to Raymund Isaac who thought of trying out "non-bold" celebrities to do "bold" poses in the late '90s.

Selling point

Of course, not all body photographs, in the local publishing industry, are up to par. Some are downright cheap, mercenary and trite, but they sell anyway. But on the whole, the Filipino photographers' experimentations are worth documenting in another article perhaps. It's in this freedom of art and expression where we still have an edge over our richer but more restrictive neighbors like Singapore perhaps.

As editor, I've been given by these photographers the prerogative—the privilege, really—to choose which to publish and how to publish it. For instance, in the case of Jericho Rosales, I knew that Jun would have preferred that I show the wholeness of Jericho's behind, framed by a feminish sarong. But I chose to show only a mere fraction of it, first, because I still believe that the power of suggestion—and the seduction of the imagination—is stronger than anything else (why give away the entire store when you can give only a portion of it?).

I agreed with the Talent Center lord **Johnny Manahan**'s image of machismo—"male" machismo, over "gay" machismo (don't make me go into that); he should know. Second, because—and here I deferred to the Hunks' manager **Deo Endrinal**—I didn't want to preempt Jericho's or **Carlos Agassi**'s chances for endorsements of "wholesome" products. Thus, I used a ruler to make sure I bared only a few inches of Jericho's potentially

HARASSING/ p.F2

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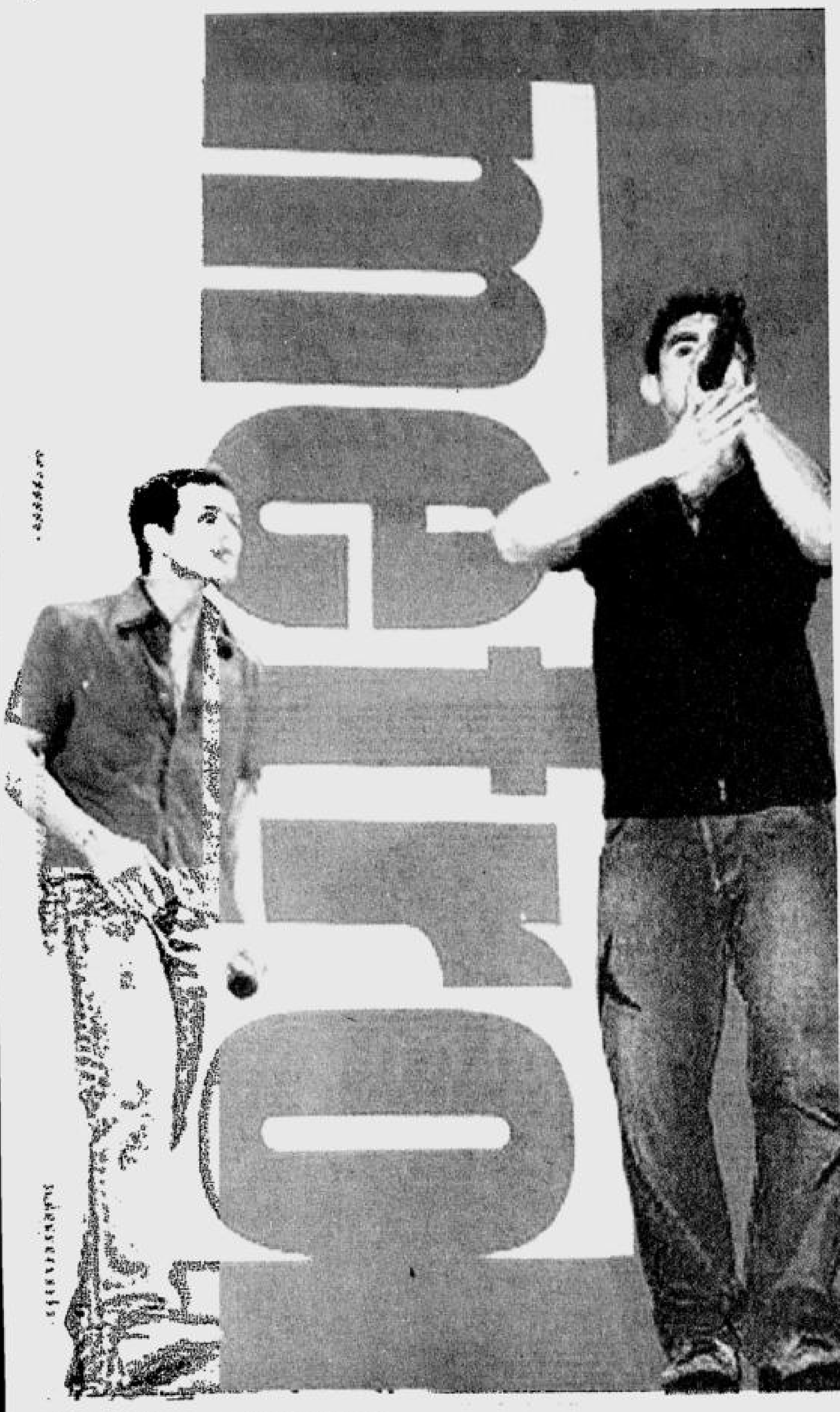

JERICHO Rosales and Carlos Agassi

Harassing the Hunks

From page F1

controversial behind—in transparency, not in actual shoot. Never thought I'd see the day when I'd be using this measurement tool on a guy's precious body part.

Now, for the market. Simply put, it's everyone—from the matrons to the *colegialas* to the bankers, the straights, the gays, men and women, the "AB" and the *masa*. Curiosity for celebrityhood is the great class equalizer of the times—this explains the market. Giving only bit by bit of these celebrities, instead of a satiating whole in one go—packaging, in short—is what expands and strengthens the market. Packaging or branding is what makes mass follow class.

Interesting

This is what makes the Hunks an interesting subject for this era. Jericho, Carlos, **Piolo Pascual**, **Diether Ocampo** and **Bernard Palanca** packed the Folk Arts Theater last Valentine, with queues snaking outside. That was the screaming-fan crowd. In the Body Calendar show last Sunday, they also drew in the fashionistas, preppies and yuppies—the opposite end of the spectrum. That alone shows you that, unlike in the show biz of old, today's show-biz celebrity market can span the AB-to-*masa*—which makes the demographic "*bakya* crowd" a thing of the past; in many cases, there's no such thing anymore. Marketing savvy has seen to that; a good marketing pitch can reach all levels of the population, thanks to media and the malls which have become the town plazas of the 21st century even in the far-flung provinces.

In the case of the Hunks, it's due to the planning and management of the broadcasting network handling them. At least, that's how I see it from where I sit. Working a great deal with ABS-CBN managers (of which I am one, for clear disclosure), I've studied how the careers of these guys have been planned so meticulously, almost scientifically, by the Talent Center. "Mr. M.," as Johnny Manahan is known, is a stickler for rules of discipline and career planning, and no less than tragedy can strike its violators (of which I am one—again). He's more than a Professor Higgins to their Eliza Doolitles; he has a parenting presence not only over the Hunks but over all the other talents as well, especially so since most of these talents they got in their formative teen years. I can sit for hours listening to stories about the personal struggles of these talents (not really the Hunks) concerning families and the like—each one an unending saga.

> They have just the right mix of wholesomeness and raw sexiness, good-boy and bad-boy elements, and no sleaziness

It is this strict watch that ensures the continued marketability and career viability of talents such as the Hunks. I can't say if it's similar to the Sampaguita stars of old—I wasn't around yet then. What I can say is this sophisticated handling must have come also with the advancement of media and lifestyle brands. Correct handling is a must if one is to survive today's market that is instantly swayed by global communications.

Swooning from the distance

And there's an interesting facet of the market that I saw during the Body Calendar show. While the upper-crust market can swoon over the Hunks, just as much as, say, the Folk Arts market, the former is more restrained. They'd rather swoon from a distance. While they were anxious to see and meet the Hunks, and couldn't wait for them to take off their shirts—which the Hunks didn't—they were so shy to applaud. Such "silence" was enough to cause "insecurity" in show-biz stars facing a traditionally nonfan crowd. You have to be a **Martin Nievera** to survive such a placid crowd.

Apparently thinking the fashionista crowd didn't want them enough, the Hunks wanted to leave right after the show instead of mingling with the guests. Of course, I thought otherwise; I happened to have a long line of friends (I promised not to mention their names) wanting to meet them after the show.

So—call of duty. To stop the Hunks from leaving in haste, I struggled up the scraggly terrain backstage at the Rockwell parking lot just in time to block them from getting into their cars. What enticing words couldn't do, my stilettos did. In those heels, I was tripping all over, at best, and stood the risk of breaking my ankles, at worst—so that Diether had no choice but to grab my hand. But then my other hand was free, and on that soft ground, I was still staggering (talk about best actress trophy), so Jericho grabbed me for a second assist. Voila! With Jericho to my left and Diether to my right—hand-in-hand captivity—this frantic editor so unfashionably ambled her way back to the *pakipot* guests, with Piolo, Bernard, Carlos and a discomfited Deo right behind us. Mission accomplished.

All in a day's work. Hazards of the trade (theirs, not mine). There with the guests, including **Pops Fernandez** who devotedly stayed through the Hunks' number, the Hunks worked the fashionista crowd.

Shy but candid

Among the Hunks, it's Diet and Jericho I've had the chance to work with. Diet is really shy but once at ease, is the type who can be candid about himself—from his fashion tastes to his awkward acting moments before the camera. This guy has struck me as having the humility to learn from his more experienced counterparts, like **Maricel Soriano**, and he remembers lessons learned. Jericho is the type who can be comfortable in any company, as I've observed him at many dinners with our Star Studio staff after every mall tour. Not yet a household name then, he was uncomplaining and could dutifully sign autographs for hours; he still is. No pretensions, good vibes. He can slide into any conversation topic, from his humble beginnings to his passion for water sports.

Visual attractions like the Hunks—they're good-looking to begin with—give me an observation about today's beefcake icons. If they're clicking across all segments, it must be because they have just the right mix of wholesomeness and raw sexiness, good-boy and bad-boy elements, and certainly no sleaziness.

They bare while not exactly baring all. Today's brand-conscious market will not go for cheap or common, which is why controversy must be well calibrated.

The market has grown smart, which is why skin must also be smart. There lies the test.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph

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Per DTI Permit No. AII-0065 & 0068 Series of 2002.

Summer ballet class to open April 1

THE 8TH Perry Sevidal Ballet Summer will be held on April 1 to June 1.

The eight-week-long intensive dance program includes Classical Ballet for all levels. Classes will be held in Sevidal's new and bigger studio at 8883 Sampaloc Ave., San Antonio Village, Makati City, about four blocks away from its former location on Bakawan Street.

The summer program includes other dance forms (Elementary Modern, Modern Techniques, Kids' Jazz and Creative Movement) taught by teachers trained in Classical Ballet.

They include Judelle de Guzman and Annette Cruz-Mariano of Ballet Philippines; Katherine Sanchez, formerly of Philippine Ballet Theater; Marissa Aboitiz, formerly of the Manila Metropolis Ballet; and Leslie Palomera from the school of National Artist for Dance Leonor Orosa-Goquingco.

Sevidal, the school director, is herself a critically acclaimed performing artist.

Tony Fabella, leading figure in Philippine dance, choreographs the Advanced and Children's Ballet students to the eclectic music of Pinikpikan, which will be featured during the Perry Sevidal Ballet Recital VIII on June 1 at the Main Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Other faculty members will present their own choreographies.

Registration is ongoing. Call 894-1239, 0917-5255370, or 806-7314.

PERRY Sevidal and her wards

PHOTO: JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Grants for Japanese language students

GOINGS ON

THE JAPAN Foundation gives an all-expense-paid trip to Japan for outstanding students of the Japanese language. The competitive/qualifying examination and interview for the 2002 Study Tour Awards for Outstanding Students of the Japanese Language is set at 8:30 a.m. on March 9. The grant covers a two-week study tour hosted by The Japan Foundation-Japanese Language Institute, Kansai. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished registration forms is March 6. Call the Japan Foundation Manila Office at 811-6155 to 58 and 811-6153. Visit 12/F Pacific Star Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

HOMECOMING. Alumni members of the University of the Philippines Journalism Club are invited to attend the UPJC Alumni Homecoming tomorrow, at UP Hotel-Patio, Diliman. Visit the UPJC Tambayan, 2/F of the UP Diliman College of Mass Communication. Call 420-5336 or Jeusa Raflores at 433-5190.

PHOTO COURSE. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation Inc. (FPPFI) will hold basic and advance photography courses on March 3, at Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. The basic workshop is open to those who are just starting to learn photography while the advance course will be for those who want to enhance their skills. Visit FPPF, 7/F Comfoods Building, Chino Roces and Gil Puyat Avenues, Makati City, or call Beverly Estrosa or Boy Capala at 813-7420 or 843-5341.

SPECIAL PROMO. Cross-stitch with friends and get a pair of movie passes and a chance to win a brand new Nokia 8310 through DMC's "Needles, Threads and Friends." Just call or visit any of DMC's participating outlets and enrol with three of your friends (aged 13 and up) in the free Cross-Stitch Workshop for Beginners. Workshops are held Wednesdays to Sundays. For every three friends you refer, you get a pair of movie passes for free and a chance to win a brand-new Nokia 8310. Promo runs until March 2. Call 634-8587. Participating outlets include Stitches and Things branches in SM Megamall, North Edsa, Las Piñas and SM Centerpoint; and Dreams outlets in Glorietta, Sta. Lucia, Metro East and Robinsons Novaliches.

PERFORMANCE. Miriam College is sponsoring the final performance of "Alikabok," at 8 p.m., March 2 at the Music Museum, Shoppesville Arcade, Greenhills. "Alikabok" is an original Filipino musical written by Ryan Cayabyab and Noel Balmaceda. It stars Chris Villonco, Diane de la Fuente and Jeffrey Hidalgo. Tickets are available at the Music Museum and the Miriam College Special Projects Office. Call 927-2421 to 32 local 302.

SPECIAL PROJECT. Diamond Interest Phils. Inc., launches its solo and major project, "Lakbay 2002 Kabuhayan at Kalusugan Hatid ng D.I." The project aims to teach Filipinos how they can start their own business with very little capital, while promoting good health. The Lakbay 2002's first leg, which ends March 2, covers San Fernando, Pampanga, Tarlac, Urdaneta and Baguio. Lakbay will later visit other key cities. Visit the Diamond Interest Head Office at Unit 3004C, PSE Building, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, or call 637-2614 to 59.

BAZAAR. Era and Big Horn, represented by Kevin Tan and Pinky Antonio, respectively, will mount a one-of-a-kind bazaar on March 6-21. Dubbed "Easter Bonanza Streetfair" at Eastwood City, some 32 shops will offer a wide array of items at rock-bottom prices. The bazaar will be open 11 a.m.-2 a.m.

FORUM. The Philippine Association of Academic and Research Libraries holds a forum on "Applying Five in the Library Environment," 8-12 noon today at tThe National Library Auditorium, T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila. Call 735-9406, 735-8508 or 899-4343.

MUSICAL PLAY. The Stella Maris College (SMC) Grade School Department is presenting a musical play, "Sulyap sa Ugat ng Kahirapan," until tomorrow at the SMC auditorium. The fund-raising project of the SMC Grade School Parents-Teachers Association features the school's pupils, parents, teacher and guest performers in a two-hour cultural presentation. Call 911-2229, 439-2294 or 912-4564.

PLAYWRITING CONTEST. Wings Entertainment has extended the deadline for its playwriting contest to March 20. Plays on any subject should be submitted in three copies to Wings Entertainment c/o ACT Entertainment Inc., Room 1543 Mega Plaza Building (back of Robinsons Galleria), ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. The winning play will be staged in the last quarter of the year as part of the company's 2002 season. Call 687-1855/1856.

Final Reduction
0 END OF SEASON 2
SALE
Rustan's

Promo period - Feb. 15 to March 3, 2002

Per DTI- NCR Permit No. 0272, Series of 2002

The ultimate digital photo experience

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez
Contributor
Photo by Patrick Uy
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ANTONIO SALAC SANTOS

PHOTO PHENOMENON: Ericsson T68 mobile-cum-digital camera is the newest toy for the man.

THE CELLULAR phone craze is showing no signs of abating. Just pass by the Hub, Globe Telecom's premiere retail outlet, and you'll see crowds of people coming in and out at any given time in both the Glorietta and Rockwell outlets.

Are all these people buying cellular phones? Well, yes and no. Of course, at the Hub one can find the latest handsets out in the market. In fact, they even display some units before they are released so many people actually mill about their store windows to preview what's to come. But aside from that, the Hub, with its futuristic interiors, is a place where the latest gadgets are showcased.

Their Future Exchange shelf includes the newest models of MP3 players, personal digital assistants, digital cameras and other indispensable products for today's high-tech generation. And all these upscale gadgetry doesn't mean that things at the Hub are expensive. On the contrary, aside from giving very good deals on the handsets, the original accessories such as phone covers are significantly cheaper than other retailers. And if you're just browsing, there's a wide range of demo phones available that you can try out.

Goal

Being in the forefront of cutting-edge technology is the goal of the Hub, that is why they will always showcase the latest in mobile technological advancements. The telecom store's latest showcase is called the "Photo Phenomenon," which highlights the photo capabilities of the Ericsson T68 and its Communicam attachment.

Customers who purchase the Ericsson T68 will be able to have their picture taken and have it framed on their screen for free. Imagine an actual colored picture as your wallpaper. If you're not narcissistic, then bring your significant other and have his/her photo taken.

As part of the Photo Phenomenon, the Hub will raffle off a total of eight Communicams for buyers of the Ericsson T68, with one being given away every week. The Communicam is a tiny digital camera that you can attach to your T68. You can take as many pictures as you want and send them via e-mail or use them as wallpaper for your phone. You can store up to five pictures that you can change as your mood allows. I saw the end result and the resolution is pretty good.

Lightweight

The thing is, for now, only the Ericsson T68 and a few other Ericsson models can download photo images to use as the phone's wallpaper. It is likely that other brands will have similar functions in the future.

For those who are still in the market for a new phone, you have to see the T68. It is lightweight and comes in funky metallic colors, and it has a color screen. It is so cool to see all the icons in full color.

Aside from that, it is Triple Band—meaning you can use it practically anywhere on earth, and it is both WaP and GPRS enabled. This means being able to send e-mail, text messages, as well as EMS (Enhanced Messaging Service).

Plus, it has a Calendar and Contacts feature that makes it an effective organizer. You can store names, addresses, e-mail, phone numbers and even notes. Then you can synchronize all these data with your PC or share the information with your PDA. Check it out, the features are overwhelming.

The whole concept of the Hub is great because it is a retail outlet and service center all in one. Not only is it a visually pleasing experience to visit the store (it won the Merchandising Award for 2002), it is totally interactive as well. Because aside from providing customers firsthand access to the latest mobile communication tools and services, the thrust of the Hub is to make technology more meaningful by extending it for the consumer to experience at the retail level.

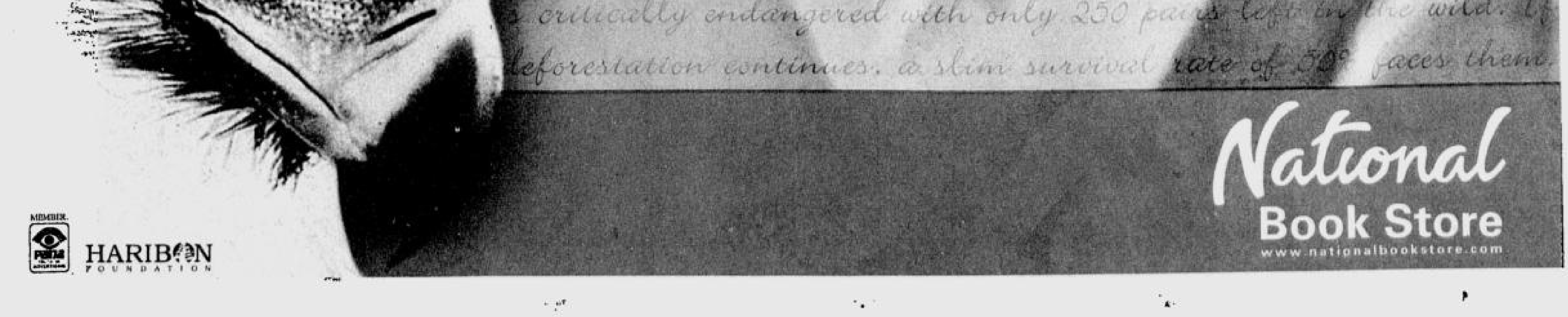
The "Photo Phenomenon" is going on up to April 30. It is the ultimate digital photo experience, and if you want to see where all this digital technology is taking us in the millennium, you should check it out at the Hub.

E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com

THIS model works with the Ericsson Communicam attachment which acts as the camera unit of the phone in capturing images.

> The Hub features 'Photo Phenomenon,' which showcases the marriage between digital telecommunication and photography

MODEL: BERNIE GUINTO, CAL CARRIE'S
CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES: HUGO BOSS
WATCH: OMEGA
STYLING BY JAY CU-UNJIENG AND RAMON BILBAO
GROOMING: ROCKY GIMENEZ FOR COCOY SALON


The country's national bird
Philippine Eagle
Pithecophaga jefferyi
is the second largest eagle in the world. This magnificent bird
critically endangered with only 250 pairs left in the wild. If
deforestation continues, a slim survival rate of 50% faces them.
MEMBER
HARIBON FOUNDATION
National Book Store
www.nationalbookstore.com

Glam hairstyles can be done at home

SCHWARZKOPF Professional and hairdresser Nelson Cruz team up to create easy-to-do pieces for an important date or a night out.

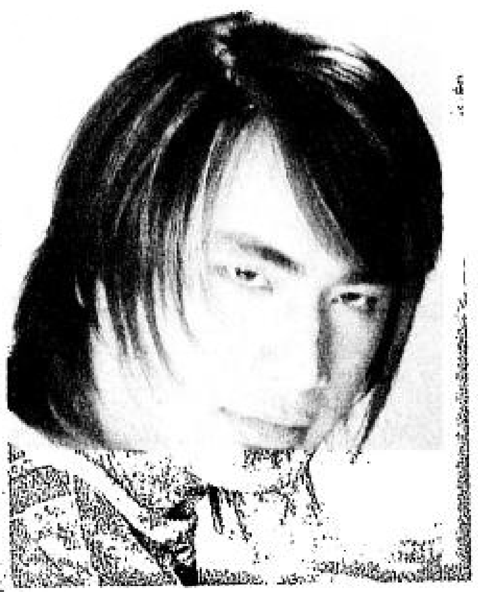
The Germany-based hair-care manufacturer and the award-winning hairstylist have come up with styles that are sophisticated yet simple enough to do even at home.

Nelson uses color, makes flirtatious ringlets with a curling iron, and precise shoulder-length feather layering to create feminine styles suitable for a glamorous affair or a casual engagement.

For the fuss-free male, Nelson takes inspiration from the let-your-hair-loose attitude of the '70s.

Schwarzkopf Professional products are exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Top Style Marketing Inc., with offices at 25 PA Eisenhower Condominium, Eisenhower Street, Greenhills, San Juan (tel. 726-8507/08).

HAIR stylist Nelson Cruz used Osis Grip to support the curls of this romantic "do."

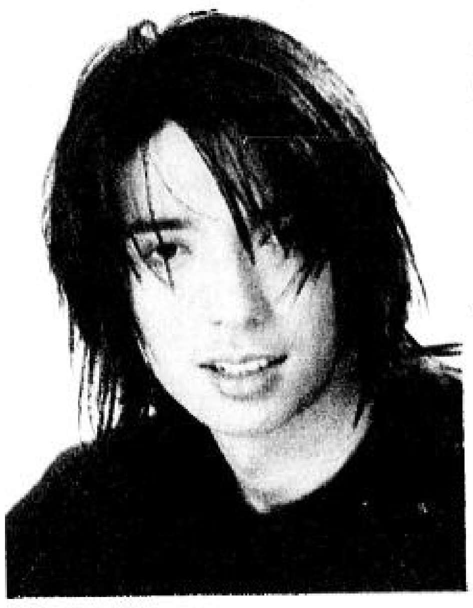


The hairdresser who shags men

RICKY Reyes introduces the Whisper cut for men, a style for any hair length highlighted by spiky yet polished edges. The style gets a light appearance with the spiky edges. It also requires very little maintenance.

Reyes, who has also a feminine version of the style, said, "This new cut gives men the cutting-edge look without making them look hippie-ish. It comes with an attitude, too."

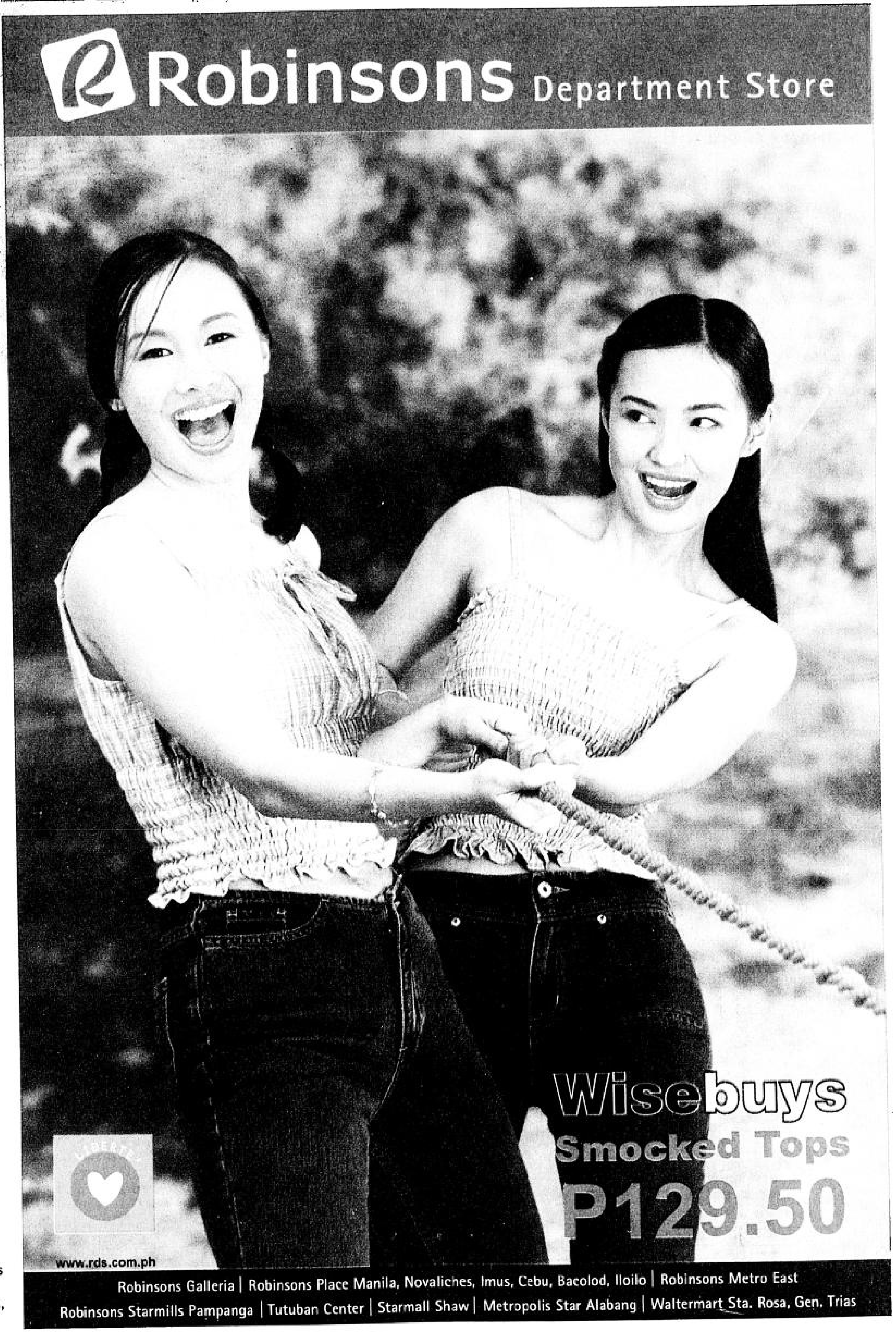
The more daring Pinoy can have the Whisper with two-tone highlights for emphasis.



CLOTHES FOR THE CAREFREE

Ducks Unlimited's latest collection is designed for a carefree individual who does not sacrifice comfort for style. Ducks Unlimited clothes are both stylish and comfortable, and bring out the best in an individual.

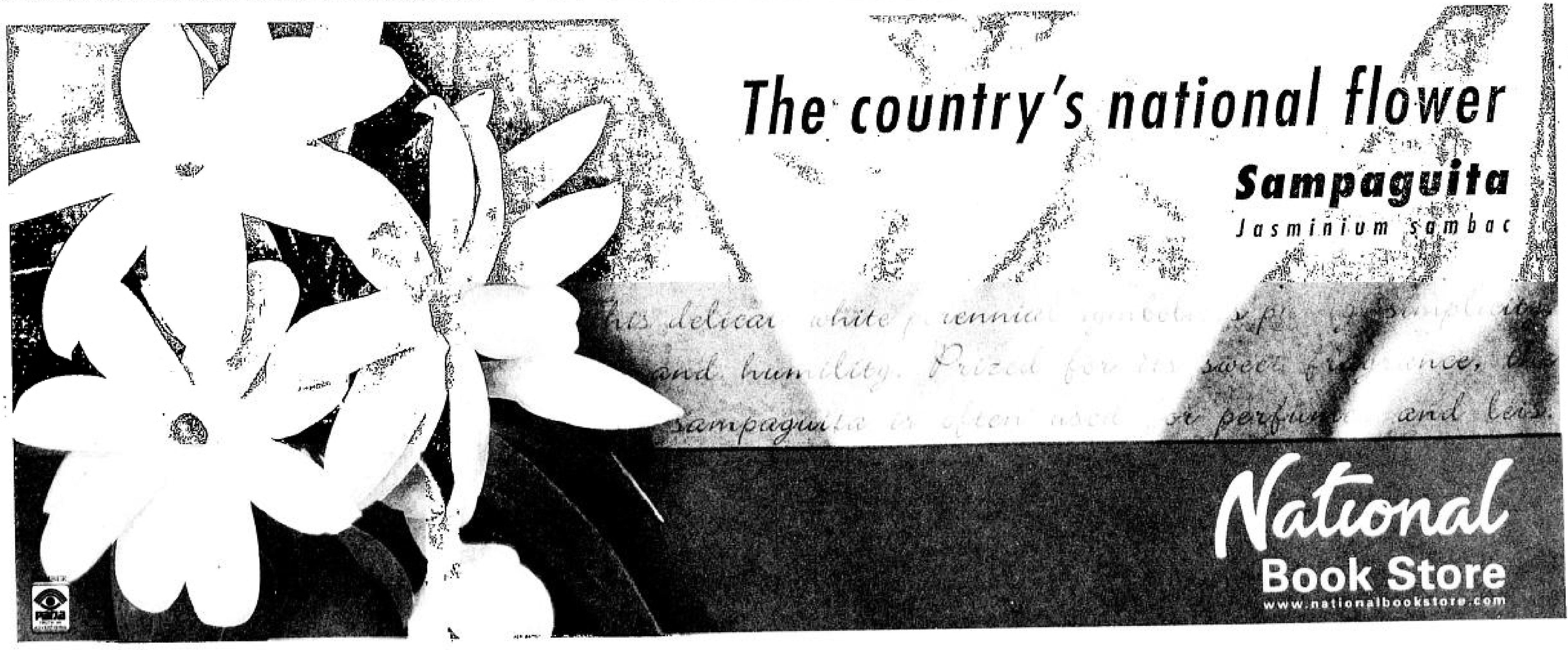
DENIM is a big item from apparel to accessory. It provides variety for the wardrobe as it emerges this season in pants, skirts and jackets. Petit monde dolls Cheska Garcia, Ann Curtis and Jodi Santa Maria had the time of their lives posing for Jun de Leon in this all-style denim collection. Available at SM malls, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Ermita and Festival Supermall.



Robinsons Department Store

www.rds.com.ph

Robinsons Galleria | Robinsons Place Manila, Novaliches, Imus, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo | Robinsons Metro East
Robinsons Starmills Pampanga | Tutuban Center | Starmall Shaw | Metropolis Star Alabang | Waltermart Sta. Rosa, Gen. Trias

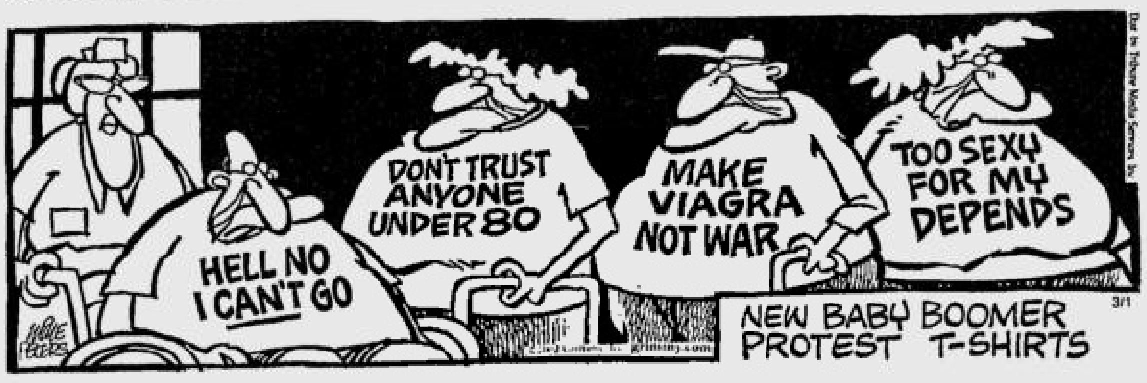


The country's national flower
Sampaguita
Jasminium sambac
This delicate white perennial symbolizes simplicity and humility. Prized for its sweet fragrance, the sampaguita is often used for perfumes and leis.

National Book Store
www.nationalbookstore.com

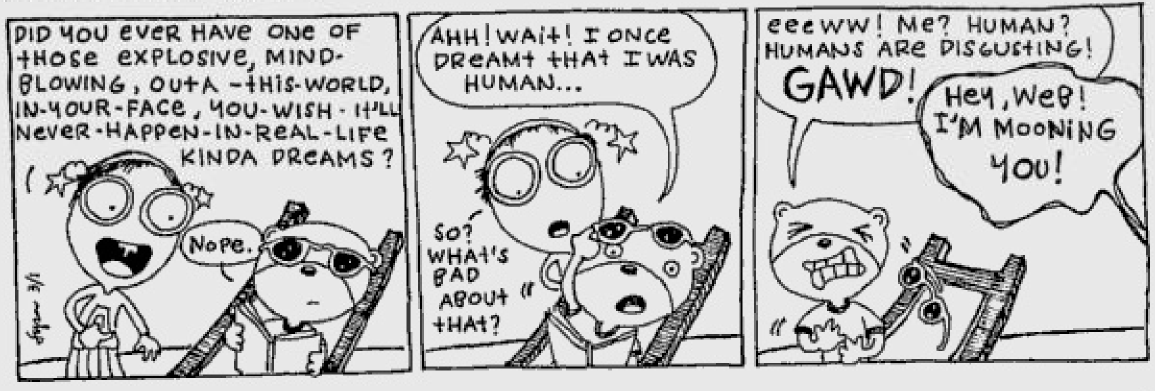
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


HELL NO I CAN'T GO
DON'T TRUST ANYONE UNDER 80
MAKE VIAGRA NOT WAR
TOO SEXY FOR MY DEPENDS
NEW BABY BOOMER PROTEST T-SHIRTS
3/1

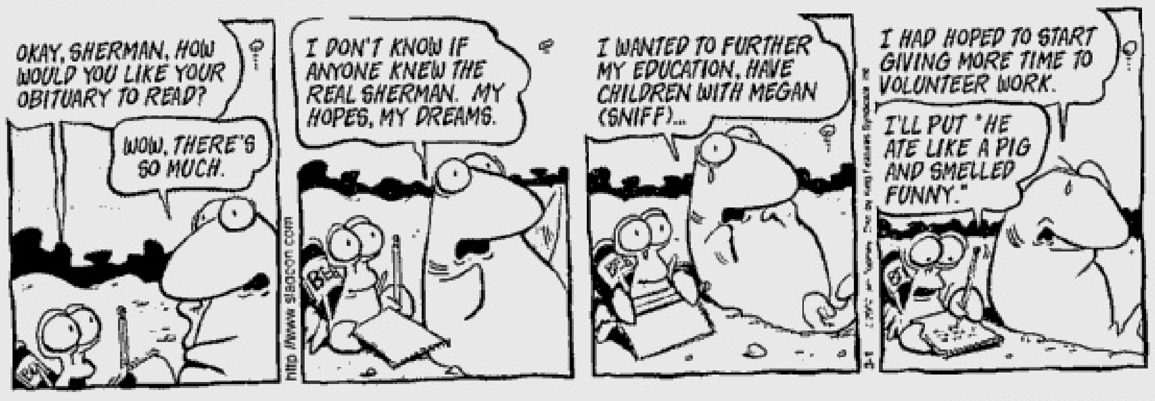
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


DID YOU EVER HAVE ONE OF THOSE EXPLOSIVE, MIND-BLOWING, OUTA-THIS-WORLD, IN-YOUR-FACE, YOU-WISH-IT'LL NEVER-HAPPEN-IN-REAL-LIFE KINDA DREAMS?
Nope.
AHH! WAIT! I ONCE DREAMT THAT I WAS HUMAN...
SO? WHAT'S BAD ABOUT THAT?
EEEWW! ME? HUMAN? HUMANS ARE DISGUSTING! GAWD!
HEY, WEB! I'M MOONING YOU!

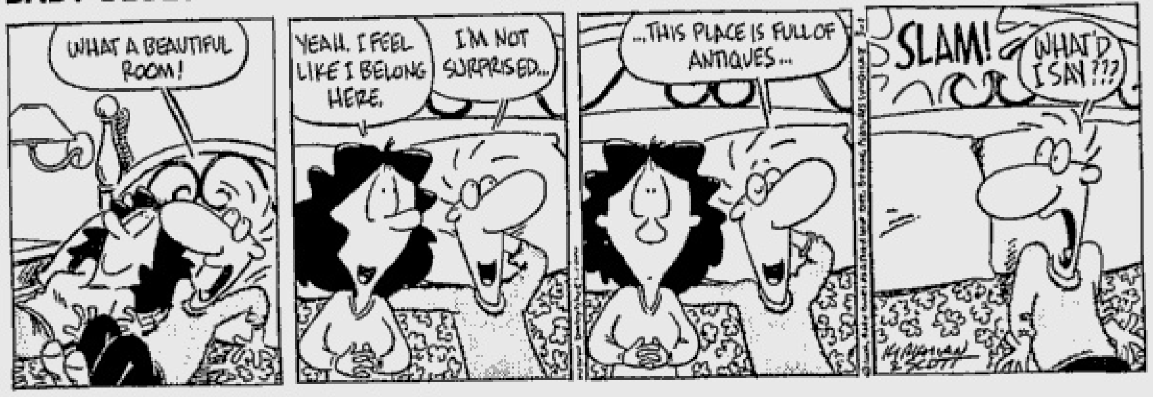
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


OKAY, SHERMAN. HOW WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR OBITUARY TO READ?
WOW, THERE'S SO MUCH.
I DON'T KNOW IF ANYONE KNEW THE REAL SHERMAN. MY HOPES, MY DREAMS.
I WANTED TO FURTHER MY EDUCATION, HAVE CHILDREN WITH MEGAN (SNIFF)...
I HAD HOPED TO START GIVING MORE TIME TO VOLUNTEER WORK.
I'LL PUT "HE ATE LIKE A PIG AND SMELLED FUNNY."
http://www.slagoon.com
3-1

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT A BEAUTIFUL ROOM!
YEAH. I FEEL LIKE I BELONG HERE.
I'M NOT SURPRISED...
...THIS PLACE IS FULL OF ANTIQUES...
SLAM!
WHAT'D I SAY???
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ron Howard, Harry Belafonte, Alan Thicke, Timothy Daly

Happy Birthday: You will have a greater interest in cultural trends this year. You will be drawn to courses offering different philosophies and humanitarian interests. You will have unusual experiences while traveling or attending seminars. There is much to be learned this year so prepare to take in all the information being offered. Your numbers are 4, 17, 27, 34, 36, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your emotions are close to the surface. Relationships are on your mind and the opportunity to do something special with someone you care about is present.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Sometimes it's to your benefit to walk away. You may have to be pushed in order to do so but you have so much ahead of you, let go and be optimistic about your future.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't be afraid to believe in yourself and your talent. If you are willing to go the extra mile you will discover that the reception you receive will be phenomenal.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Someone you live with or that you are close to may disappoint you today. Try to be patient and give him or her a chance to make it up to you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): This is a great day for romance and partnerships. Don't hesitate to take your present relationship to the next level. If you are still looking for love, be sure to attend events that will bring you in contact with interesting people.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Focus on your work and let the people around you know how serious you are about getting ahead. Your ambitious nature will give you a competitive edge. Don't hold back.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Make plans to get out and do something special with someone you enjoy spending time with. You won't have to spend a lot of money in order to make this a day to remember.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): There is a deal to be made so don't waste time pondering over whether or not you should be getting involved. A partnership can be formed if you attend a financial seminar. Changes at home will be to your benefit.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You are in a powerful position today. New partnerships can be formed if you are forthright with your plans. Don't be afraid to accept a little praise.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): What you see and what you get will be two different things today. Don't let your emotions get the better of you. Not everyone will be on your side.

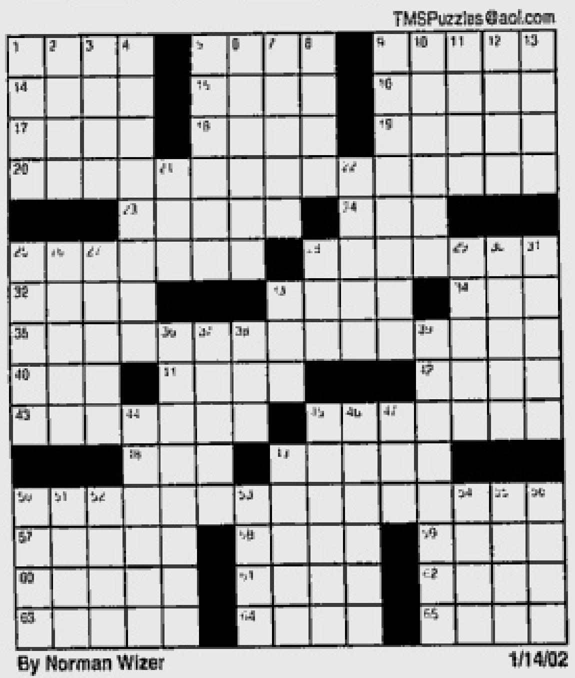
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put your ideas into motion. Be gracious and accept whatever is being offered. Your hard work and dedication to something you truly believe in will be rewarded.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The weekend may be here but that doesn't mean that you should slack off. If you put in an added push you will surpass any competition that you might meet along the way.

Birthday Baby: You are extremely proud of your home and your family and will stand up for anyone you love regardless of the consequences. You are always willing to try anything that will result in a thrill.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Norman Wizer
Malvern, PA

1/14/02

ACROSS
1 Got a top grade on
5 Two-toed sloth
9 Virgo's brightest star
14 Rani's dress
15 Drug agent
16 Baseball bobble
17 Whitney and Lilly
18 Currier and __
19 Clunker car
20 Continental creature
23 Maui bye-bye
24 Word ignored when alphabetizing
25 San __, CA
28 Penetrator
32 Security cash
33 Gymnastic maneuver
34 Otto I's realm
35 Continental creature
40 Sault __ Marie
41 Med. care groups
42 Solo at the Met
43 Stamping ground
45 More intelligent
48 Hi-fi discs
49 Sober
50 Continental creature
57 Serious
58 __-do-well
59 Slangy negative
60 Steady starer
61 Himalayan bigfoot
62 First garden
63 Snow-day rides
64 War god
65 Move quickly

DOWN
1 On the briny
2 Tranquil
3 Sal's canal
4 British P.M. (1874-80)
5 Electric companies corp.
6 Zuni's neighbor
7 Activity area
8 School north of L.A.
9 Category of books
10 Give priority to
11 "My Friend __"
12 Unenthusiastic
13 Pisa's river
21 Not well
22 Functional
25 Discompose
26 US-Mex.-Can. union
27 Wailing warning signal
28 __ Pot of Cambodia
29 Map
30 Els or Kovacs
31 Patch roads
33 In medias __
36 Whirlybirds
37 Make laugh
38 "To Have and Have __"
39 Made tougher
44 Like a surgeon or an outfielder
45 City on Fla.'s W. coast
46 Native New Zealanders
47 Feel poorly
49 Express disdain
50 Chicken products
51 River to the Caspian
52 Level to the ground
53 Writer Seton
54 Closing measure
55 Impersonator
56 Bivouac shelter

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	P	R	O	U	T	■	M	A	Y	A	P	P	L	E
A	R	O	U	S	E	■	A	V	E	M	A	R	I	A
R	A	S	C	A	L	■	D	E	S	I	R	I	N	G
G	I	S	H	■	■	B	O	N	■	S	K	O	A	L
A	R	E	■	S	T	U	N	G	■	S	A	R	G	E
S	I	T	■	H	O	R	N	E	T	■	■	S	E	D
S	E	T	T	I	N	G	A	S	I	D	E	■	■	■
O	S	I	E	R	S	■	■	■	G	A	R	B	L	E
■	■	■	T	R	I	C	K	O	R	T	R	E	A	T
A	C	C	■	■	L	A	I	N	I	E	■	A	R	C
S	H	A	R	E	■	B	L	E	S	S	■	R	Y	E
G	A	P	E	D	■	A	L	S	■	■	L	I	N	T
A	S	I	T	W	E	R	E	■	F	L	A	N	G	E
R	E	T	A	I	N	E	R	■	R	A	N	G	E	R
D	R	A	G	N	E	T	S	■	O	D	E	S	S	A

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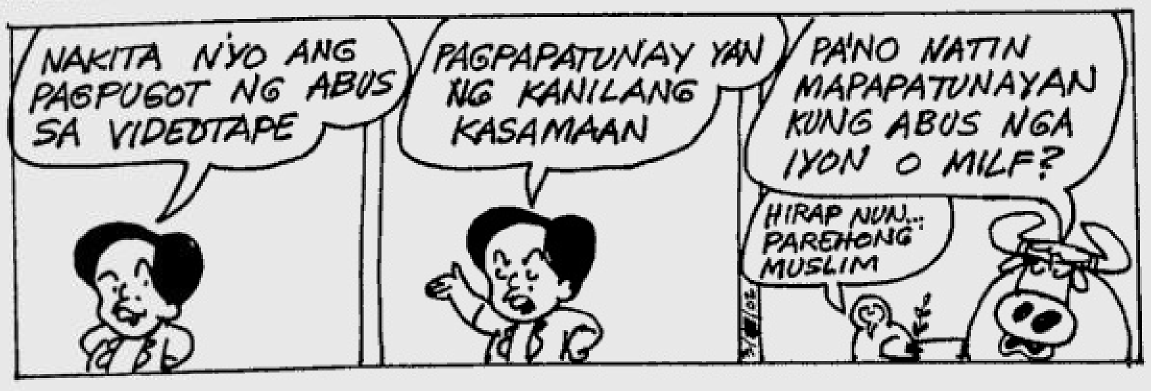
1/14/02

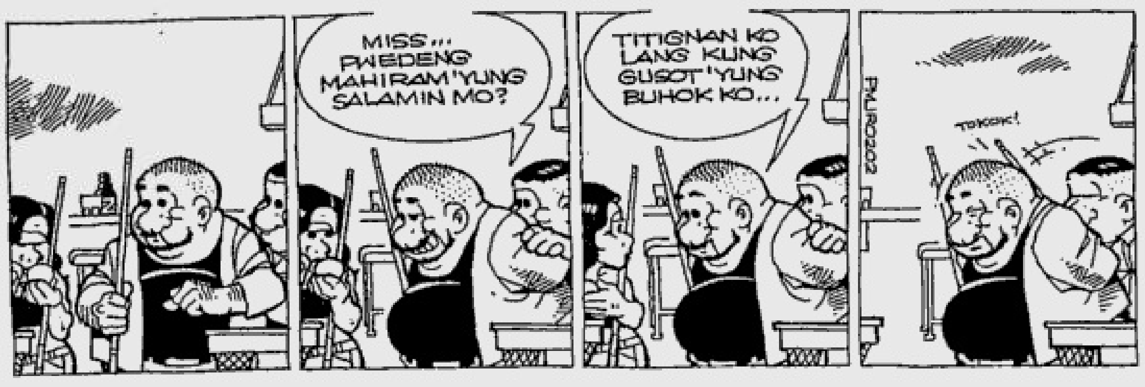
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NAKITA N'YO ANG PAGPUGOT NG ABUS SA VIDEOTAPE
PAGPAPATUNAY YAN NG KANILANG KASAMAAN
PA'NO NATIN MAPAPATUNAYAN KUNG ABUS NGA IYON O MILF?
HIRAP NUN... PAREHONG MUSLIM

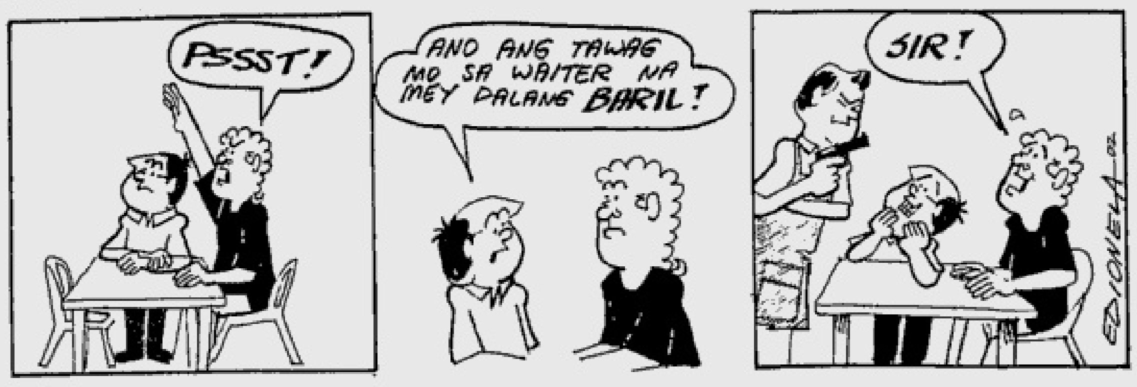
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MISS... PWEDENG MAHIRAM 'YUNG SALAMIN MO?
TITIGNAN KO LANG KUNG GUSOT 'YUNG BUHOK KO...
PMJR0202
TOKOK!

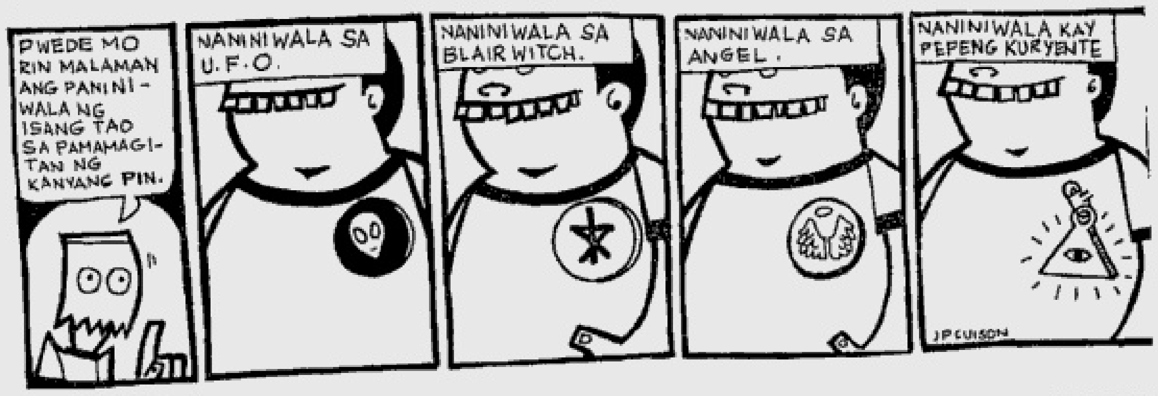
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


PSSST!
ANO ANG TAWAG MO SA WAITER NA MEY DALANG BARIL?
SIR!
EDIONELA

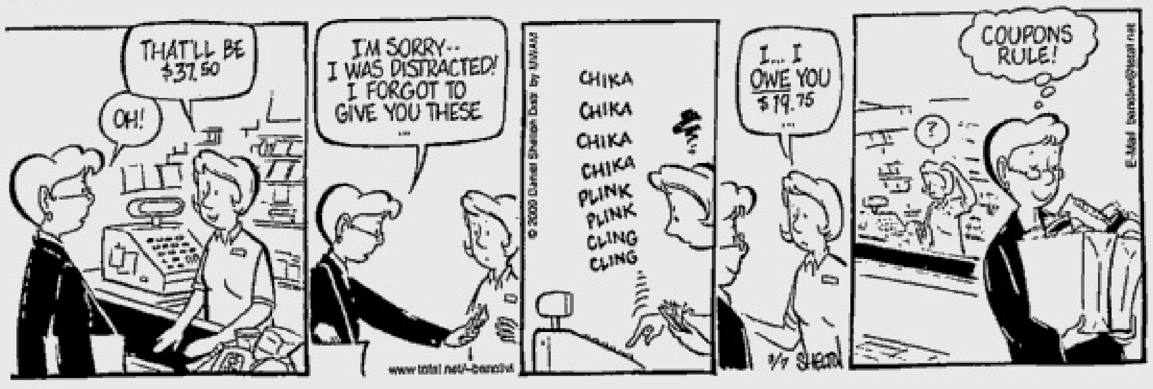
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


PWEDE MO RIN MALAMAN ANG PANINIWALA NG ISANG TAO SA PAMAMAGITAN NG KANYANG PIN.
NANINIWALA SA U.F.O.
NANINIWALA SA BLAIR WITCH.
NANINIWALA SA ANGEL.
NANINIWALA KAY PEPENG KURYENTE
JPCUISON

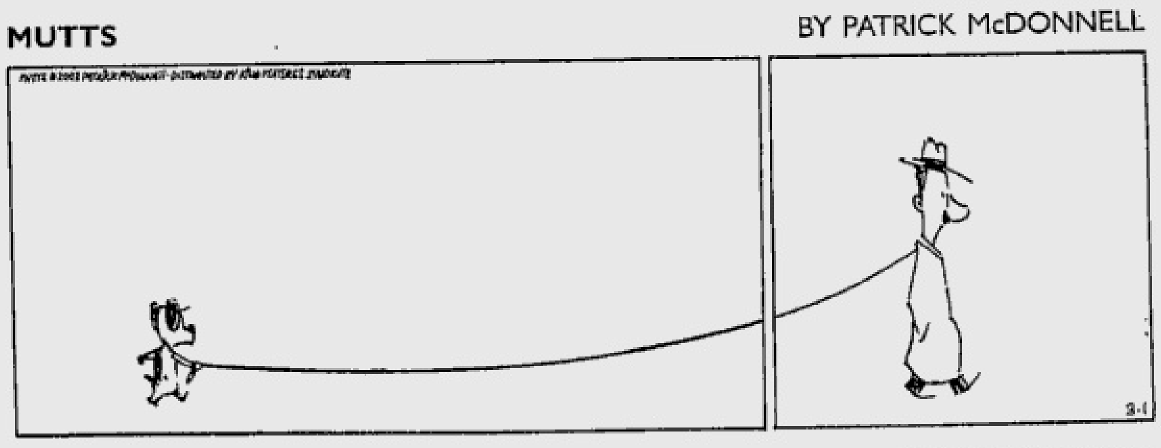
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


THAT'LL BE $37.50
OH!
I'M SORRY-- I WAS DISTRACTED! I FORGOT TO GIVE YOU THESE
CHIKA CHIKA CHIKA CHIKA PLINK PLINK CLING CLING
I... I OWE YOU $19.75
COUPONS RULE!
SHELTON

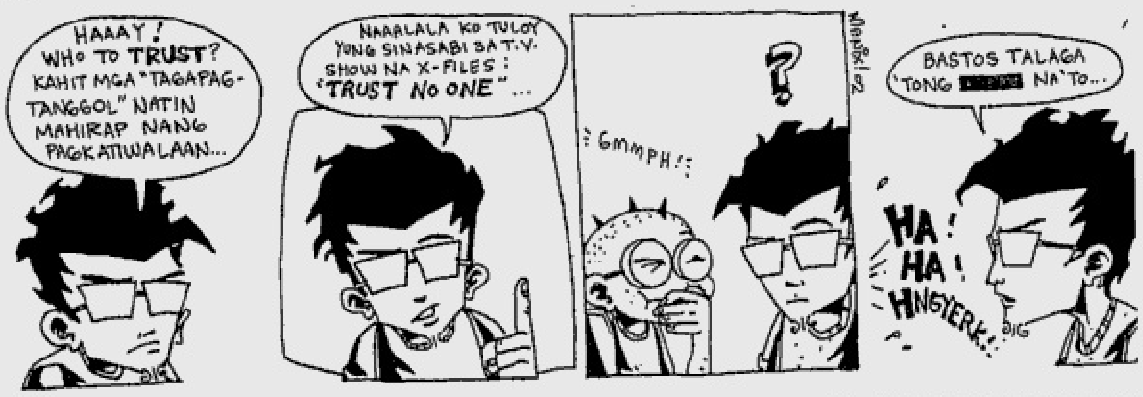
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



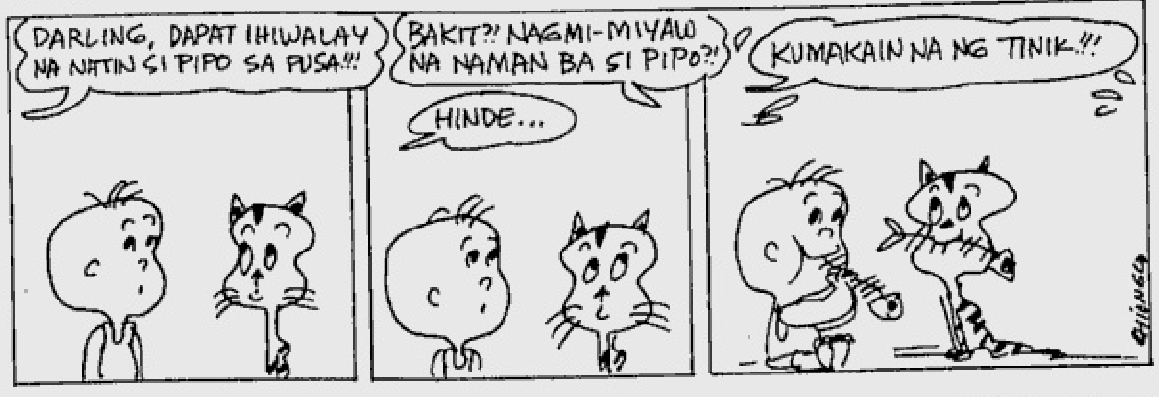
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HAAAY! WHO TO TRUST? KAHIT MGA "TAGAPAGTANGGOL" NATIN MAHIRAP NANG PAGKATIWALAAN...
NAAALALA KO TULOY YUNG SINASABI SA T.V. SHOW NA X-FILES: 'TRUST NO ONE'...
?
GMMPH!?
BASTOS TALAGA 'TONG [redacted] NA'TO...
HA! HA! HNGYERK!!

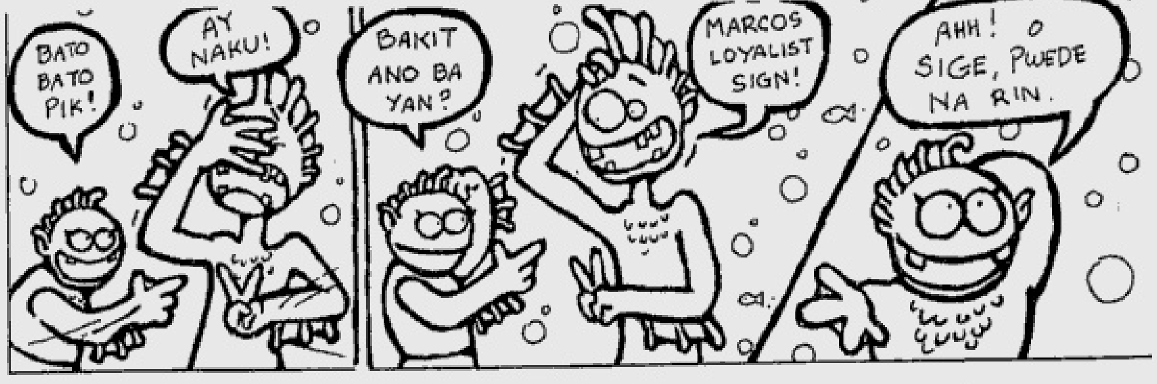
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DARLING, DAPAT IHIWALAY NA NATIN SI PIPO SA PUSA!!!
BAKIT?! NAGMI-MIYAW NA NAMAN BA SI PIPO?!
HINDE...
KUMAKAIN NA NG TINIK!!!
CHIONGLO

CHICHOY CHOKOY

BY IKOY RICIO


BATO BATO PIK!
AY NAKU!
BAKIT ANO BA YAN?
MARCOS LOYALIST SIGN!
AHH! O SIGE, PWEDE NA RIN.

Jobseekers are losing hope

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I graduated in April last year, but up to now I'm still jobless. I have a good scholastic record and was consistently on the Dean's List. I have sent my résumé to more than 100 companies, but not one has contacted me. I submitted my résumé personally and sent e-mail and snail mail. I wish they would ask me to take an exam. I also check the Internet for possibilities.

I feel so helpless and depressed because I know a lot of fresh graduates out there are also looking for jobs. I want to help my mom. Despite my failure, I still send my résumé to different companies. I don't know what will happen in the future. Despite a beautiful relationship with my boyfriend, I still need some words of inspiration. Please help. Thank you for reading my letter.

SHERRY

Here are some words of inspiration: Thank the Lord for having a boyfriend, for having graduated and for being talented, not dumb. Keep praying. More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.

Keep monitoring the job market and reading the classified ads. I have a friend who applied by e-mail. She was called for an interview and now she is earning P20,000 a month.

Don't limit yourself to office jobs. You can earn a living by direct selling. Another friend has a regular income tutoring some elementary school children in her neighborhood, although she took up commerce, not education.

* * *

I NEED your advice regarding my situation. I'm now about to mark my 30th birthday. For the past two years, I have been looking for a job. I live with my parents and I am embarrassed to be totally dependent on them. I'm thinking of doing volunteer work since it's so hard to find a job. Do you know of an organization or group like the Jesuit Volunteer program that sends volunteers to the provinces? I'm fond of cooking, baking, doing crafts and planting herbs. Please help me.

VICKY
Pasig City

You can get in touch with the Jesuit Volunteer Phils. program at JVPFI Foundation Inc., 3/F Belarmine Hall, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, QC, tels. 927-9060 and 426-5908. Many have volunteered. New applicants, who will be sent out next year, will be screened later this year. You will fill out an application form and, of course, undergo medical checkup.

Other volunteer programs may want to get in touch with Vicky at queenvic13@yahoo.com.

Good luck!

* * *

On old coins again

For the three readers who want to know where to go: e-mail your inquiries to busp@pacific.net.ph or call Albino Quiban, tel. 524-0548. His shop is at 1184-7 A. Mabini, Ermita, Manila. He is a top authority on old coins. Carmen is his secretary.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

Joint annual convention slated March 12-14

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Gastroenterology (PSG) and the Philippine Society of Digestive Endoscopy (PSDE) will hold their Joint Annual Convention March 12-14 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City. This year's theme is "Decision Making in Gastroenterology."

The PSDE is also holding an endoscopy workshop on March 11 at the University of Santo Tomas CME Auditorium to give an update on the latest techniques and procedures. Call the PSG, Suite 419-410 Prince David Condominium, 305 Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, QC, at 436-1554.

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Finals for new modeling competition March 8-9

WINNERS of the Boracay Bodies Model Search 2002 will be chosen March 8-9 at the Sun Village Beachfront Resort, Boracay.

Sponsored by Omega and Philips, the contest aims to find men and women who best personify the essence of Boracay—travel, fashion and the good life—from among 20 finalists. Winners will be chosen by a panel of judges consisting of prominent media, fashion, travel, political and advertising personalities.

More than P500,000 in cash and prizes await the winners, including Omega and cK Watches, Samsonite luggage, all-expense-paid trips to Boracay and other Philippine tourist destinations as well as outfits by Mike de la Rosa and Efren Ocampo.

Boracay Bodies Model Search 2002 is a production of Fuentes Publicity Network Inc. Robbie Carmona is in charge of production while Alex Van Hagen is official photographer. The event is supported by the Philippine Tourism Authority, Bergamo, The Asian Diner, SunCafé, Melinda's Garden and Orchids Resort Boracay. Call 813-1338, 893-9355 and 816-3109.

GMA cites Filipinas' accomplishments

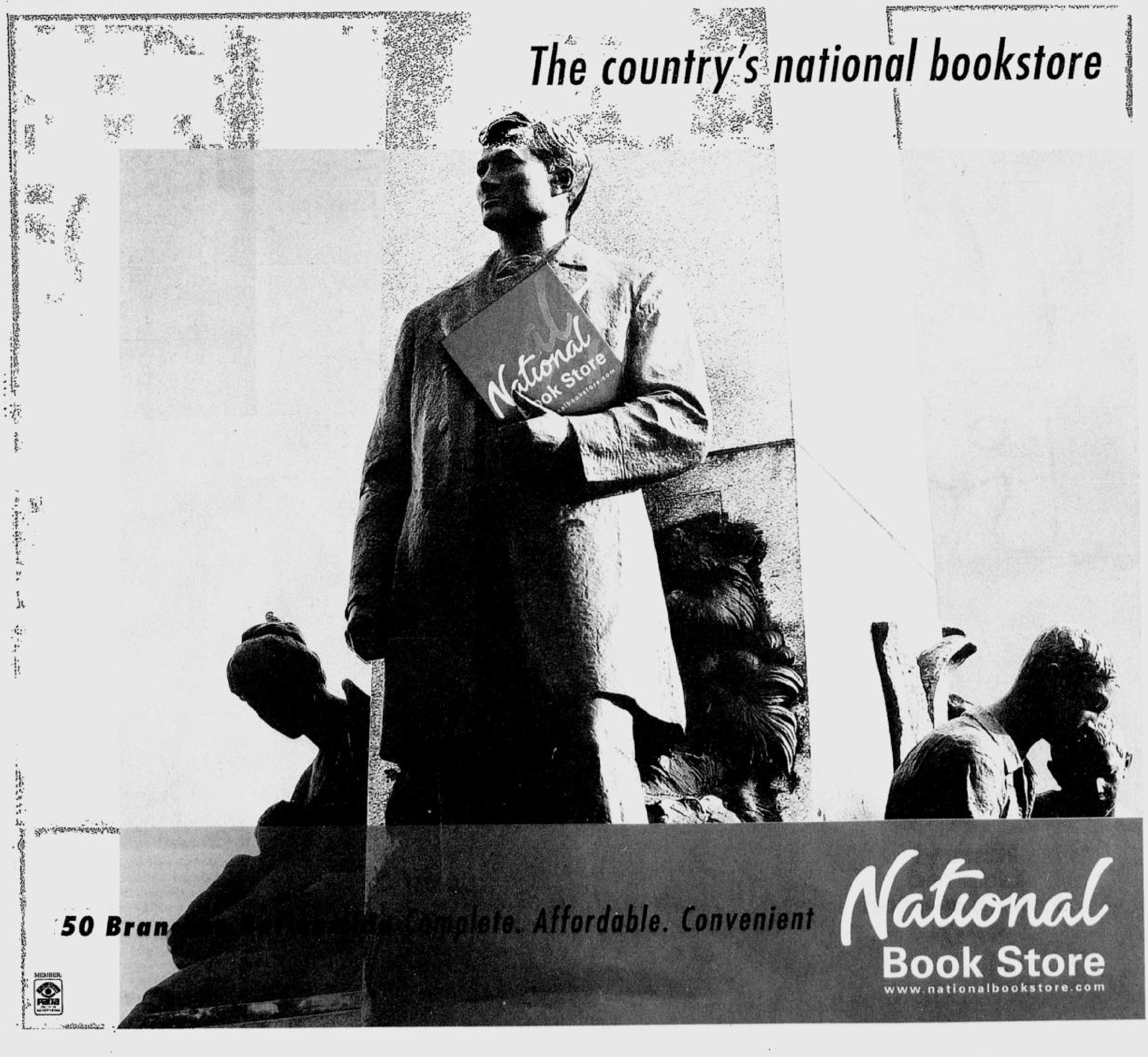
PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said Filipino women should be proud of what they had accomplished.

In a message to organizers, exhibitors and participants of "Motherhood and Woman Expo-Seminars and International Exhibition on Women, Mothers and Children's Needs," the President said, "... the Filipino people should be proud of the long way we have gone from the attainment of our women's right to suffrage to the assumption of its first lady President. The 21st century is proving to be yet another fruitful chapter in its struggle, especially in women's role as mothers and nation builders."

She expressed confidence that Filipino women would be equal to the challenge of helping in the healing and rebuilding of the nation.

"Motherhood and Woman Expo" will be held Aug. 16-18 at the World Trade Center. Participants will include suppliers of mothers and babies' needs, and home and family, lifestyles, health, fitness and sports, business and career management, education and recreation products and services.

Call 852-7618 to 19 or fax 852-7620.



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MEMBER:

Glamour dresses don't end in the prom. They can be recycled

After the prom

By Camille Cruz-Reyes
Contributor
Photos by Chito Vecina
VISUAL CONCEPT: ALBERT AVELLANA

WHAT happens after the prom season is a problem for many girls. Will they have their outfit dry-cleaned and stored for the next occasion, in which case they will have to wear the same outfit again? With this dilemma, perhaps it is best to wear separates during the prom. That way, girls can repeat the outfit but with variations. They can mix the dressy separates with other outfits.

IRIDESCENT halter top, P495; dark jeans with studded pocket detail, P897

KHAKI stretch shirt, P497. Long charcoal dress with sheer outer layer, P1,597.

They may wear the halter-top and match it with a long skirt. They may find a nice pair of dark jeans that will pair very well with that jewel-toned or bright colored halter they wore to the prom. The jeans may have a minor accent to them, such as bullet holes or a hint of fur.

If they don't know what to do with the long shantung skirt, they should find a top that looks interesting and breaks away from the stiff look. They may add a jean jacket. They can also wear a fitted knit beneath it and either close one button or leave the whole jacket open.

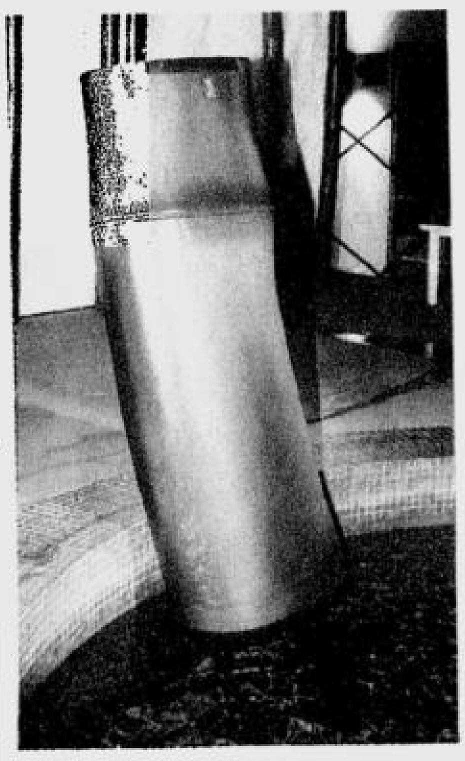
For extra detail, they may throw in a printed or textured colorful sash or thick belt. For those who are in long dresses, any top will work if worn correctly. A fitted shirt worn open is simple and chic. A shirt tied at the waist worn over the dress can work as well.

They may strive for a slight contrast, depending on the time of the day. They should be sure the pieces don't speak too loud.

E-mail the author at unit36d@vasia.com

ALL ITEMS FROM RITRATTO, G/F GLORIETTA 3

DENIM jacket, P597; gray shantung long skirt, P897



KENZO Pour Homme is a fresh woody marine fragrance built around the themes of water and blue. The unveiling of the scent was held at the poolside of Essensa. The bottle has all the energy of a natural element, reshaped by the hand of man. The blue changes from turquoise to cobalt, depending on whether it is at the edge or heart of the bottle.

CCAC CHINESE CULINARY ARTS CENTER
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ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE OF CLASSES: AM 9:30 - 11:30 PM 1:45 - 3:45

ROASTING - 7 complete recipes in 5 meetings such as Asado, Peking Duck & etc. on March 5, 6, 7 & 8
RICE TOPPINGS - 12 recipes March 11, 12, 13 (AM)
DIMSUM - 12 recipes such as Siopao, Siomai, Taro puff & etc on March 18, 19, 20, 21 (PM)
BASIC CANTONESE DISHES - on March 22, 23, 25, 26 (AM)

SPECIAL ONE-MEETING LESSONS:
March 4 PM Chicken Feet, Spicy Spare Ribs, Almond Gelatin
March 9 AM Chiew Chow Chili Sauce, Fried Breaded Flower Rolls, Fried "Mameng" Fish with Cream Sauce, Beef Belly Clear Soup
March 14 PM Pata Tim, Braised Pig's Legs Pieces, Sweet & Sour Fish Fillet, Stir Fried Chop Suey
March 15 PM Cantonese Congee, Beef Noodles and Vegetables in Oyster Sauce
March 16 AM Misua Guisado, Seafood Lomi, Maki, Oyster Omelet
March 16 PM Seafood Fried Rice, Fried Chicken Pieces, Curry Crabs, Pork Cutlet

Hurry! Enroll now! This may be your last chance to learn from one of the best instructor, the secrets of cooking Authentic Chinese Dishes. *Limited seats only. First come, First Served.* Beautiful laminated cards for sale. For details, come to our office from 8:30 - 6:00 P.M. (Mon. to Sat)

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